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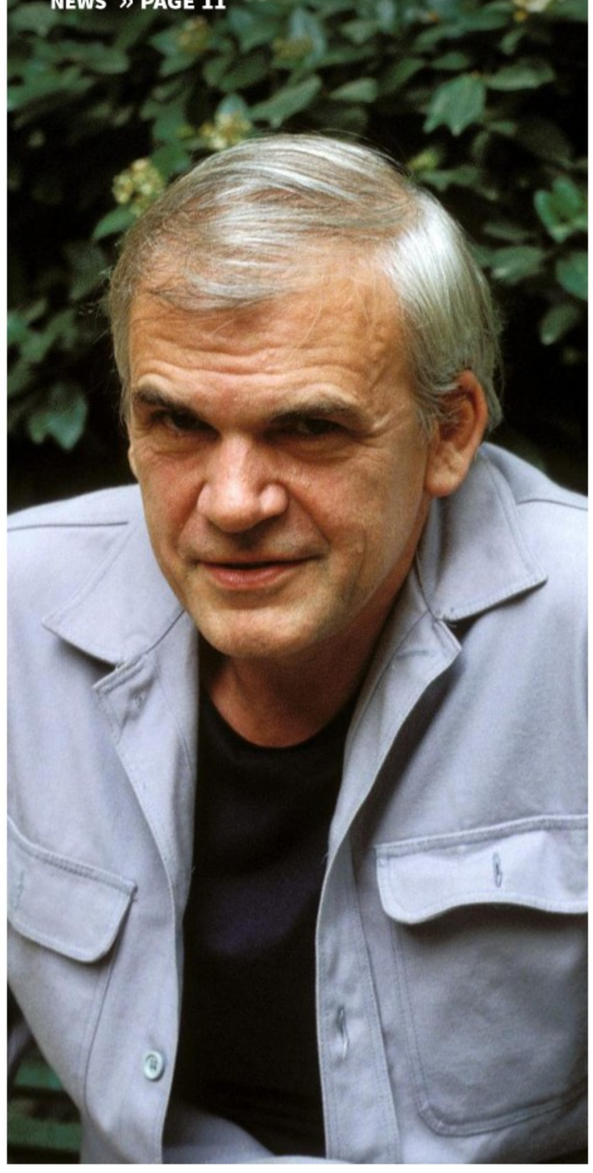

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The issue of moral atonement is important

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Jabeur ousts reigning champion Rybakina

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Big-ticket defence deals likely during PM's Paris visit

Kallol Bhattacherjee
Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI/PARIS

As the India-France strategic partnership hits the quarter-century mark, it has been given "strong guidance" by the "common vision" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said on Wednesday, ahead of Mr. Modi's two-day visit to France, starting July 13.

Mr. Modi's visit to France is being interpreted as a step towards closer military cooperation between the two countries, as India is gearing up to acquire 26 new Rafale-M fighter jets that will fit into India's maritime military plans.

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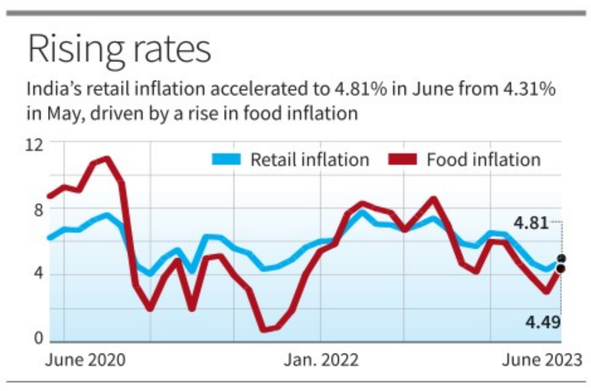
June inflation quickens to 4.8% as food prices climb

Food price inflation quickens to 4.5% from less than 3% in the previous month due to rising costs of items such as cereals, pulses and tomatoes; Retail inflation below RBI's upper threshold limit

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Retail inflation hardened in June to a three-month high of 4.81%, from May's 4.31%, driven by a spike in food price gains due to the rising costs of items like cereals, pulses, milk and tomatoes. Food price inflation quickened to 4.5%, from less than 3% in the previous month.

While June's pace of consumer price gains snapped a four-month streak of moderation from the 6.5% uptick logged in January, urban consumers faced almost 5% inflation last month with food price inflation almost doubling in pace from May's 2.4% to 4.3%.



June was the fourth month in a row that retail inflation stayed below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) upper tolerance threshold of 6%, but economists opine that the ongoing upturn in vegetable prices and the "flooding plus uneven monsoon" situation could exacerbate food price pressures on headline inflation.

While the RBI is unlikely to release its 'pause' on interest rates at next month's monetary policy review, the inflation trend may further push back the prospect of rate cuts.

"The spike in vegetable prices is set to push retail inflation to an uncomfortable 5.3-5.5% in July," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at ICRA, who sees the vegetable price shock likely causing average Q2 inflation to overshoot the RBI's 5.2% projection.

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Industrial output expands by 5.2%

Industrial output expanded at the fastest pace in three months in May buoyed by infrastructure to grow by 5.2%, compared with April's 4.46%. Power generation snapped a two-month contraction to rise 0.9%. Manufacturing and mining also grew. » PAGE 14

NEARBY

Jittery medical students want NExT put off

BENGALURU
Students, faculty members and parents have opposed the implementation of National Exit Test (NExT) as the final exam for MBBS final-year students from this year.
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Officials to get targets to recover encroached land

BENGALURU
In a bid to reclaim encroached government land in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts, the State government will set monthly targets for officials to recover the encroached land.
» Page 3

Six convicted in 2010 case of chopping Professor's hand in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A special court for National Investigation Agency (NIA) cases, on Wednesday, convicted six persons of chopping the right hand of T.J. Joseph, a Professor in Kerala, in 2010 over an alleged reference to Prophet Muhammed in a question paper he had set.

Special judge Anil K. Bhaskar acquitted five of the accused as the prosecution failed to prove the offences.

The accused committed the crime when Professor Joseph, who taught at Newman College in Thodupuzha, was returning home after Sunday Mass at a church in Muvattupuzha in Ernakulam district on July 4, 2010. The severed hand was later re-attached.

The NIA had alleged that all the accused were members of the Popular Front of India, which was later banned.

Those found guilty are Sajil, Nasar, Najeeb, Naushad, P.P. Moitheen Kunju and Ayoob. Sajil, Nasar and Najeeb were also found guilty of charges under various sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

Sentencing tomorrow

The court will pronounce the sentence at 3 p.m. on Friday.

Savad, the first accused in the case, is still absconding.

This is the second set of accused to be tried for the offence that shocked the State. The court had convicted 13 accused and acquitted 18 in April 2015. Of the total 54 accused in the case, 37 were charge-sheeted and 31 faced trial.

Yamuna's deadly detour

In deep trouble: The water level in the Yamuna crossed the 208.08-metre mark in Delhi on Wednesday, the highest in 60 years, flooding many areas. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA (REPORT ON PAGE 12)

Manipur Police file criminal case against Meitei organisation chief

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Manipur police have registered a criminal case against Meitei Leepun chief Pramot Singh for allegedly promoting enmity between groups, criminal conspiracy and other charges.

A government source confirmed that an FIR was registered against Mr. Singh on July 8 at the Kangpokpi police station following a complaint by the Kuki Students Organisation (KSO), Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi. The district to the north of Imphal is dominated by the Kukis.

The Meitei organisation, along with another group, the Arambai Tenggol, has been accused by the Kuki groups of instigating violence in Manipur.

Ethnic violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities since May 3 has claimed over 140 lives and displaced more than 54,000 people.

The KSO filed the complaint on June 13; however an FIR was registered only on July 8. The complaint mentioned an interview given by Mr. Singh to Karan Thapar of *The Wire* on June 7 where he said, "Kukis are outsiders who are not indigenous to Manipur."

In the interview, Mr. Singh accepted that Meitei Leepun was involved in giving gun training to people who have gun licences and declared that if the government, either in Delhi or in Manipur, did not intervene quickly, "there will be a civil war and the Kukis will not be able to defend themselves."

The student body said Mr. Singh, in a tweet on April 28, said, "This is the right time....let's annihilate our traditional rival on the hills and live peacefully", which was a proof of preplanned intention to attack the Kuki community.

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City's second human milk bank to start at Gosha Hospital next week

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Soon, preterm and low-birth-weight babies at the State-run Hajee Sir Ismail Sait (HSIS) Gosha Hospital can get supportive breast milk free of cost. The hospital's in-house human milk bank is all set to start functioning from next week.

This will be the third government human milk bank in Karnataka and the second in Bengaluru. The donors will be mothers from the hospital. The milk will be provided free of cost to sick and preterm babies at the hospital.

At present, Vani Vilas Maternity Hospital, attached to the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, and Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences (HIMS) are the two government institutes with such a facility.

The 120-bed HSIS Gosha Hospital that is attached to the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute (Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute) is the only government maternity referral hospital for patients from east Bengaluru and Central Business District.

The donors will be mothers from Gosha Hospital. The milk will be provided for free to sick and preterm babies at the hospital.
REPRESENTATIONAL FILE PHOTO

Rotary funding

With funding of ₹24 lakh from Rotary Clubs of RI District 3190, the milk bank at Gosha Hospital has been taken up under 'Project Sanjeevini', Rotary's maternal and child health initiative. Hospital Medical Superintendent Tulasi Devi D. told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that the hospital is ready with infrastructure for the milk bank.

"We had sent our staff to Vani Vilas for the required training. We have fumigated and disinfected the milk bank and are awaiting reports of the culture samples. The reports should come in a day or two. The bank will start functioning from next week," she said.

Dr. Devi said nearly 19% of the 550 babies born in the hospital every month are pre-term with low birth weight. "Our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) can accommodate 12 babies, of which nearly six require supportive breast milk. This is either because they are born preterm or have low birth weight. Also, as some mothers have poor lactation, they are unable to breastfeed their babies to the required quantity," she said.

Manoj Kumar H.V., Director and Dean of the Research Institute, said with Gosha Hospital being a referral maternity hospital, several women with high-risk pregnancies are referred here from other hospitals. "Feeding newborns, especially ones with low birth weight, with pasteurised breast milk can reduce the risk of infections and boost the immune system. Apart from feeding babies from our hospital, we can also use the donated milk for babies in other hospitals, wherever it is required," he said.

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3 held in double murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Shabarish, Santosh, and Vinay Reddy

The North-east division police tracked down three persons from Kunigal in Tumakuru district within 11 hours of the murder of the chief executive officer (CEO) and the managing director (MD) of a broadband firm at Amruthahalli here on Tuesday.

The police are on the lookout for the owner of another firm, who is the alleged mastermind of the double murder that was executed through one of his employees over business rivalry.

Around 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aeronics Media Pvt. Ltd. MD Phanindra Subramanyam, 36, and CEO Vinu Kumar, 47, were hacked to death by a gang of three men in front of around 10 staff members.

Based on a complaint, the police formed special teams and tracked down the accused who were named as Shabarish alias Felix, 27, from Devarachikkanahalli; and his associates Santosh, 26, a resident of Marenahalli on Bannerghatta Road; and Vinay Reddy, 23, a resident of Roopena Agrahara.

The fourth accused who hatched the murder plan, identified as Arun Kumar, owner of G-Net, another broadband service provider at Bannerghatta here, is on the run, Laxmi Prasad, Deputy Commissioner of Police, North-east division, who is supervising the investigation, said.

Probe revealed that Phanindra and Vinu Kumar were earlier working with Arun Kumar, and they resigned to start Aeronics Media Pvt Ltd. in November 2022 . The duo also poached around 10 employees of G-Net . The firm soon started doing good business and was giving tough competition to Arun Kumar's firm.

Infuriated, Arun Kumar allegedly asked his employee Felix to do the hit job, and the latter roped in two persons and gained entry into the office on the pretext of seeking jobs.

The police said during the interrogation Felix tried to divert the investigation claiming that he eliminated the duo as they were interfering in his love life. He also claimed that when he was working for G-Net, Phanindra sacked him over some issue following which he bore a grudge against him.

Felix, who has over 16,000 followers on social media, claims to be a Kannada rapper and a fashion model.

Based on the complaint by Shankara Narayan, senior sales manager of the company, the Amruthahalli police have charged the accused for murder and criminal conspiracy.

Roar of the lions: Woakes and Wood repaid the faith shown in them by the England thinktank. GETTY IMAGES

The 2Ws stoke the fire in Ben's men, keep Ashes flame burning

Woakes and Wood transformed England into a winning unit at Headingley, delivering with ball and bat in both innings and carrying the team past the finish line in a tense contest; the former rises to the occasion whenever the chips are down while the latter's infectious enthusiasm lifts the side

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

Three Tests, three humdingers. The 2023 chapter of the Ashes is turning into one of the all-time classics.

After losing the first two Tests, Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum tweaked the English line-up for the Headingley game, bringing in fast bowlers Mark Wood and Chris Woakes and giving off-spinner Moeen Ali another opportunity. The changes worked like a dream as the home side won a thriller to keep the series alive.

Narrow margins

The first two games escaped England's grasp by narrow margins and what the home team lacked was the impetus to latch on to crucial moments to drive the side to victory and the introduction of Wood and Woakes gave just that.

What Wood brings to the table is raw pace and plenty of enthusiasm, the kind that lifts a side. That's precisely what he did at Leeds.

'Go back a yard, Jonny', said former England captain and commentator Nasser Hussain to wicketkeeper Jonny Bairstow as the Western Terrace crowd cheered Wood at the end of his run-up, ready to bowl what would be yet another thunderous spell of proper fast bowling.

The pressure was building as Wood bowled dot ball after dot ball and the first run he conceded only came in the penultimate ball of his fourth over. The tension eventually gave in, just like Usman Khawaja's leg-stump after Wood bowled a 152 kmph delivery.

The player-of-the-match's effort of five for 34 was the reason why Australia crumbled from 240 for four to 263 all out in the first innings. The fast bowler also made his mark in contributing to his team's famed 'Bazball' tactic with a quickfire 24 off eight balls in the first innings alongside captain Stokes, who himself scored a valuable 80.

England's next 'W' factor fast-bowling allrounder Chris Woakes also had a key part in the home side capitalising on the decisive moments in the game.

Stage was set

While it was Wood who stole the limelight in the first innings, the stage was set up by Woakes after sending back Mitchell Marsh and breaking the 155-run partnership between him and Travis Head. Woakes followed it up by claiming the prized wicket of Head as well.

He also broke the back of Australia's second-innings by sending back Khawaja, Marsh and Alex Carey, which meant the visitors again lost the upper hand in the bout, sliding from 90 for three to 139 for six.

The duo's most important task was, however, in the fourth innings. The job on hand was to bat in tandem and guide England to victory.

Harry Brook had just gotten out after a gutsy 75 and the game could have gone anywhere with 24 runs still needed to keep the series alive. The duo attacked the Aussie bowlers with a flurry of boundaries and England raced past the target nonchalantly.

McCullum's men hadn't seized their opportunities in the series thus far and now it was Australia's time to look back and contemplate.

"There were a few moments that went back and forth. We lost six for 20-odd on day one, and on Friday the sun was out when we were batting and we missed an opportunity. Few key moments and this seems like a series where each session swings in one team's favour and then the other," said Australia skipper Pat Cummins.

The English captain was stoked that the changes he made materialised into a win. "We brought Woody and Woakes back in and it's great when decisions like that impact the game. That's what we look at, what impact can players have and how can we use them. Those guys [including Moeen] did that this week," he said after the match.

Looking ahead, the fourth Test at Old Trafford is around the corner and both sides have some serious decisions to make.

From the visitor's camp, the key dilemma revolves around opener David Warner's place in the team with talisman all-rounder Cameron Green coming back after an injury and fellow all-rounder Marsh proving himself tough to drop.

> Woakes being out of the team for such a long period of time to come back in and perform the way he did with both bat and ball... seeing Woody running in like he does, big smile on his face and enjoying every moment out there was great
>
> **BEN STOKES**

Options open

Cummins did not reveal much as he said that the team was keeping all options open for the next match. Marsh, however, has voiced his opinion. "It's important for Green to be in our side. We've seen how important he is for us over the last couple of years and we'll just have to wait and see," said the 31-year-old.

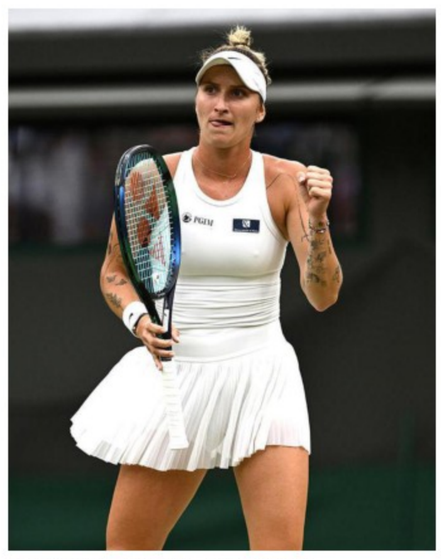
Australia will be hoping that its run machines Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne, both with middling returns in the series, will come good sooner rather than later. It is rare that these two, if not at least one, don't feature in the top-five run scorers list of a series.

'If it ain't broke, don't fix it', a phrase cricket pundits have used generously while discussing a winning team's playing XI for the next match. But, for England, things are a little more complicated as the home team's bench in the third Test was warmed by a man with 688 Test wickets.

Leaving James Anderson out from his home ground where one of the bowling ends itself is named 'James Anderson End' will be a bold call. However, this seems unlikely as fast bowler Ollie Robinson is carrying a niggle and the wiser choice would be to go with the experience of Anderson.

The next Test is not until July 19, giving a much-needed break for the players before they go all guns blazing.

Old Trafford presents an opportunity for the Aussies to clinch the Ashes but for England, it's a desperate attempt to keep the record intact of not losing an Ashes series at home since the turn of the millennium.



Marketa Vondrousova. GETTY IMAGES

Casual call gives Vondrousova will to win

Having come from 4-1 down in the deciding set to win her Wimbledon quarterfinal on Tuesday, many would have thought Marketa Vondrousova had benefited from some useful coaching insight in the locker room during a rain delay.

Instead, it was a pep talk down the phone from her husband as the Court One roof was closed that helped the Czech claw back her match against American Jessica Pegula and seal her place in the semifinals.

The unseeded 24-year-old won the first set but had lost the second in a topsy-turvy encounter on Tuesday and having gone a break down in the third set when play was paused, needed some words of encouragement.

"I actually didn't see my coach. I was alone in the waiting room. I chatted a bit with my husband. We talked on the phone. That was it. It was a quick break, so I didn't do much," she told a press conference.

"He just said, 'Try to fight. You are playing good. You are playing a great match'. Yeah, that was it. I think the break helped, actually. It was good," she added.

She will face Elina Svitolina in the last four. But despite the Ukrainian coming into the tournament as a wildcard having only recently returned to the Tour after giving birth, Vondrousova said it would be like facing another top-ranked player.

However, Vondrousova's husband will not be there as he has more pressing issues to deal with back home in Prague.

"He has to work. He has to take care of our cat. He has to stay home," she said, laughing.

Andrey Rublev. AP

'Grateful' Rublev wants an end to 'terrible' Ukraine situation

Russian Andrey Rublev thanked the Centre Court crowd for their noisy support during his failed bid to knock defending champion Novak Djokovic out of Wimbledon on Tuesday. Rublev said he was taken aback by the support from the Wimbledon fans. "Last year I was set not to play one of the best tournaments in our sport," he said. "But being here this year, I felt grateful."

Asked if Russian players felt a sense of guilt over President Vladimir Putin's 'special military operation' in Ukraine, Rublev said: "It's not guilty. It's more just the situation is terrible. You don't wish this on anyone. You want these terrible things to be able to finish as fast as possible for all the people in the world to have a chance to have a good life."

Players from Russian and Belarus were allowed back at Wimbledon this year after the WTA and ATP fined the Lawn Tennis Association for its stance and took away ranking points. One of the conditions for their return was for players to sign a personal declaration that they do not support the war.

Jittery medical students demand implementation of NExT postponed

Amidst outrage against a complete change in the system mid-way through the course, they say NExT be implemented for students who join medical courses this year

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

A file photo of first-year MBBS students in Karnataka.

Students, faculty members and parents have opposed the implementation of National Exit Test (NExT) as the final exam for MBBS final-year students, which also will double up as PG NEET for admission to postgraduate courses, from this year. The National Medical Commission (NMC) has released a gazette notification and guidelines for the exam.

Amidst outrage against a complete change in the system mid-way through the course, students and parents are demanding that NExT be implemented for students who join medical courses this year, and not for those who got admission to the course in 2019-20 and who will pass out this year.

NMC said it introduced NExT to achieve uniformity in the summative evaluation across India with reference to the minimum common standards of education and training of a medical graduate. This will be a uniform licentiate exam (for graduates from foreign medical universities), and an entrance exam for PG medical courses.

The NExT is a computer-based online examination, which will be conducted in two parts .

Step 1 will be the theory exam with only multiple choice questions. The examination will consist of six papers covering subjects prescribed for the final-year MBBS course. The minimum pass marks will be 50% in each of the six papers. Only the Step 1 exam result will be considered for admission to PG courses. Step 2 will be a practical/clinical and viva voce exam covering seven clinical subjects. Step 2 supplementary examination will be held twice a year. If a candidate fails in more than three subjects, they must appear in all the seven subjects afresh in the supplementary examination. There is no restriction on the number of attempts for Step 2, provided the candidate has passed Step 1. The candidate has to pass Step 2 examination within 10 years of joining the MBBS course.

Final year MBBS students, who have to take the first edition of NExT in 2024, are demanding that its "imposition" on them is undemocratic, and also alleged "a lot of ambiguities in the gazette notification".

According to Kushal, a final-year MBBS student of Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, "According to our college schedule, the final-year syllabus will be completed by January 2024. The NMC has announced that it will conduct the NExT Step 1 in May 2024. This will give us three months to prepare, which is a tough task."

According to another medical student, "We are used to writing long form theory papers. This is an MCQ paper with negative marking in Step 1. Failure to clear the exam will prevent us from doing the one-year mandatory internship. We are scared of getting stuck."

Email campaign

Final year MBBS students (2019-20 batch) have launched an email campaign against NExT.

In the e-mail sent to the Chairperson of the NMC, New Delhi, they say, "It's against the principle of natural justice to implement an entirely new process retrospectively on students who knew nothing about NExT when they got admission in 2019."

Jamuns turn sour for farmers this year as surplus supply pushes down prices in State

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

Jamun or black plum is the flavour of the season, with its sale being brisk across Mysuru since the start of the season.

Between summer and monsoon, many varieties of seasonal fruits hit the market, and one among them is the jamun fruit (*nerale hannu*). Famous for its various health benefits, the fruit was usually sold at prices ranging from ₹150 per kg to ₹350 per kg. However, this year, farmers have reported that the price has touched its lowest in recent years, with some of them have even sold the fruit at even ₹30 per kg.

In 2022, the average price of jamuns was around ₹180 per kg in wholesale markets, farmers reported. On most days, ₹200-250 per kg was the selling price.

This year, the average has come down to ₹50-60 per kg, they said. In retail markets, the fruit is selling at ₹80-₹120 per kg.

"The season of jamuns is just 25 days between June and July. The minimum output from an orchard per day will be around 250-300 kg. I sell my fruits to HOPCOMS, but sometimes, I would be left with 70-80 kg of jamuns," said Shankar Srinivasaiah, a farmer from Gauribidanur in Chikkaballapur district. Like with any crop this year, even jamuns were affected by unseasonal rains. Yet, the supply to markets has exceeded demand.

Farmers blame the influx of fruits from neighbouring States for the surplus in the market. According to them, a large quantity of jamuns come to Bengaluru from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Previously, the markets used to be dominated by jamuns from Belagavi.

"In those states, the selling price will be much lesser than what it is here. So, even with transportation costs, they will end up making a profit of around ₹10-15 per kg. Hence, they sell at lower prices. Due to this, many consumers end up buying their jamuns, and what we grow here remains unsold," Mr Srinivasaiah said.

Cost of harvesting

Both country and hybrid variety jamuns are grown in Karnataka by hundreds of farmers. According to Srinivas Reddy, a farmer from Chintamani in Kolar district, the cost of harvesting jamuns from trees is almost equal to 30-40% of their income from selling the fruit.

Farmers spend close to ₹50,000 on labour in an average orchard while there are also other costs like manure, pesticides and pest traps.

The shelf life of jamuns is around two days at room temperature, and a maximum of five days inside a refrigerator. This has forced farmers to sell the fruit at very cheap rates after two days of harvest to cut their losses.

To avoid tonnes of fruit going to waste, farmers have been asking the government to set up a procurement unit as well as juice extraction units, similar to the ones for mangoes.

Health benefits

"Jamuns are very beneficial for health, as they contain many useful minerals. They are also good for diabetic patients. If they provide us with infrastructure, the juice from jamuns can be extracted during the season, and it can be sold throughout the year. It will benefit farmers and juice manufacturers. No private entities have shown interest so far to set up juice extraction units. We hope the government takes some step in this direction," Mr. Reddy said.

K. P. Mohan Raj, Principal Secretary, Horticulture Department, said, "We will definitely help these farmers. We will study the issue, and take it up with the Horticulture Minister and the State Government. Then we will take suitable action."

Police throw security cover around house of accused in Jain monk murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Jain monk Kamakumara Nandi Maharaj of Hirekodi village in Belagavi district who was murdered.

A van full of KSRP constables and an officer have been posted near the house and farm of the accused

Police personnel have been deployed around the house of Narayan Mali, main accused in the murder of Jain monk Sri Kamakumara Nandi Maharaj, in Hirekodi village near Chikkodi of Belagavi district.

A van full of KSRP constables and an officer have been posted near the house and farm of the accused. All the relatives of the accused have left the village in the fear of retaliation by the devotees of the ashram. Police constables are also looking after the two cows, two buffaloes and around 40 sheep and goats that are in the farm of the family of the accused.

Meanwhile, a team led by Deputy Superintendent of Police Basavaraj Yaligar continued investigation in the case. Chikkodi Police produced the accused Narayan Mali and Hasan Dalayat before a court of law. The judge has granted seven-day police custody of the two accused. They will be produced before the court again on July 17, the police said.

Meanwhile, members of some Muslim organisations took out a protest rally in Hukkeri on Wednesday, condemning the murder.

They submitted a memorandum to the government demanding stringent punishment to the two accused.

Leaders of various Jamaat groups Babamian Khaji, Saleem Nadaf, Irshad Mokashi, Saleem Kalavant, Altaf Bepari and others participated.

Candidates for asst. professor posts withdraw stir

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the Higher Education Minister's promise to complete the appointment of assistant professors recruitment process as soon as possible, final shortlisted candidates of assistant professor posts withdrew the indefinite strike on Wednesday. Minister M.C. Sudhakar met the protesters at Freedom Park here and said, "The case is pending in the court and the judgement will come soon. After the judgement, efforts will be made to complete the recruitment process as soon as possible." "The Central Crime Branch police, who are investigating the case of assistant professor recruitment exam question paper leak, have already submitted the chargesheet to the court. However, the final report on whether the investigation has been completed or not has not been submitted to the government," he said. "Regarding Article 371 J, the previous government issued the guidelines during the examination, which has caused confusion. Therefore, after the court order, we will take an appropriate decision. Our government is committed to providing justice to the final shortlisted 1,242 candidates for assistant professor recruitment," the minister assured.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a protester said, "We are satisfied with the minister's promise. He has taken 10 days time to solve our problem. So, we withdrew the strike temporarily. If the government fails to fulfil our demand, then we will start the strike again."

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated July 13, we have a story on how short courses are creating technical expertise to help solve Bengaluru's growing garbage problem.

Teacher suspended

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Assistant teacher Mahendra Kumar of Bhali Nayak Tanda Government Lower Primary School near Nalwar village in Chittapur tauk of Kalaburagi district was suspended on the charge of hiring a tutor for teaching students on his behalf.

Chittapur Block Education Officer Siddaveerayya Rudnoor on July 9 issued a show-cause notice to Mr. Kumar and the headmaster and sought explanation as to why disciplinary action should not be taken against the teacher.

ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ ಆಫ್ ಬರೋಡಾ
बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा
Bank of Baroda

Bengaluru Zonal Office: 2nd Floor, 41/2, M G Road Trinity Circle, Bengaluru – 560001

TENDER NOTICE

Bank of Baroda invites Bids: "Request for Proposal for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of UPS Systems in branches of Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Ramanagaram, Tumkur, Mandya, Mysore, Chamrajnagar districts".
Details are available under Tenders section on Bank's website: **www.bankofbaroda.com**
Last date for receipt of the Application – **02.08.2023 by 3.00 PM.**

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has intended to purchase the lands described in the schedule mentioned hereunder. The said properties standing in the name of Smt.Padmavathi W/o. S.Channabasappa @ Channappa.S and others. If any person has got any objections, right, title or interest in any manner whatsoever in the schedule properties, may approach the following addressees with the documents of title in the schedule properties within 10 days from today.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Sy No.1/3, municipal Katha bearing no 706/1/3/1 measuring 720 sqft East to west 40 feet and North to South 18 feet situated at Byatarayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560064, in all measuring about 2000Sq. is bounded as follows:-
East by : Private Property , West by : Rathanamma's Property North by : Jodidhar's Property. South by : Private Property;

Sri.Thyagaraja.B, Advocate, 5/1, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Blr-03.

IN THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1 AT BANGALORE
O.A. No. 732 of 2020
M/s. CANARA BANK
R.A.H. 1ST FLOOR, MALLESWARAM 5TH CROSS BR, B'LORE-3.
Rep. by its Sr. Manager V/s. ....APPLICANT
Sri. MALLIKARJUNA N.
....DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT ISSUED UNDER RULE 23 (VIII) OF DRT (PROCEDURE) RULES 1993
Sri. MALLIKARJUNA N.
Aged about 41 Yrs, S/o. Sri. Narayanappa, Proprietor M/s. M.S. TRAVELS, @. # 27/7, Hindu Complex, HMT Main Road, Mathikere, Bangalore-560 022.
WHEREAS the above named Applicant has instituted an application U/S 19 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, against the defendant for recovery of a sum of Rs. 1,63,74,938/= alongwith court costs, and current & future interest and other reliefs from the date of application till date of recovery. You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days of the service of the summons or on 16th day of August 2023 at 10:30 a.m. either in person or duly instructed pleader as to why the relief prayed for should not be granted.
Take Notice that, in case of default the application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the 5th day of July 2023 at Bangalore.
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-1 for Karnataka
BSNL Building, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bangalore-560 001.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has intended to purchase the lands described in the schedule mentioned hereunder. The said properties standing in the name of Sri.Janardhan.N S/o. Nagappa, If any person has got any objections, right, title or interest in any manner whatsoever in the schedule properties, may approach the following addressees with the documents of title in the schedule properties within 10 days from today.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Residential Site bearing No. 139, Khatha No.202/1/202/236/49/1/139, situated at Batarayanapura Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, presently situated within the BBMP jurisdiction Ward No. 07, Batarayanapura, Bangalore, and the site is measuring East to West 50 feet and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring about 2000Sq. is bounded as follows:-
East by: Remaining land in same Survey number given to Road and Hanumanthappa's property, West by: Water Cannel and Madhugiri Narasappa's Property, North by: Dhandena Rajanna's Property. South by: Remaining land in same Survey number and Muniyappa's & Rajanna's property;

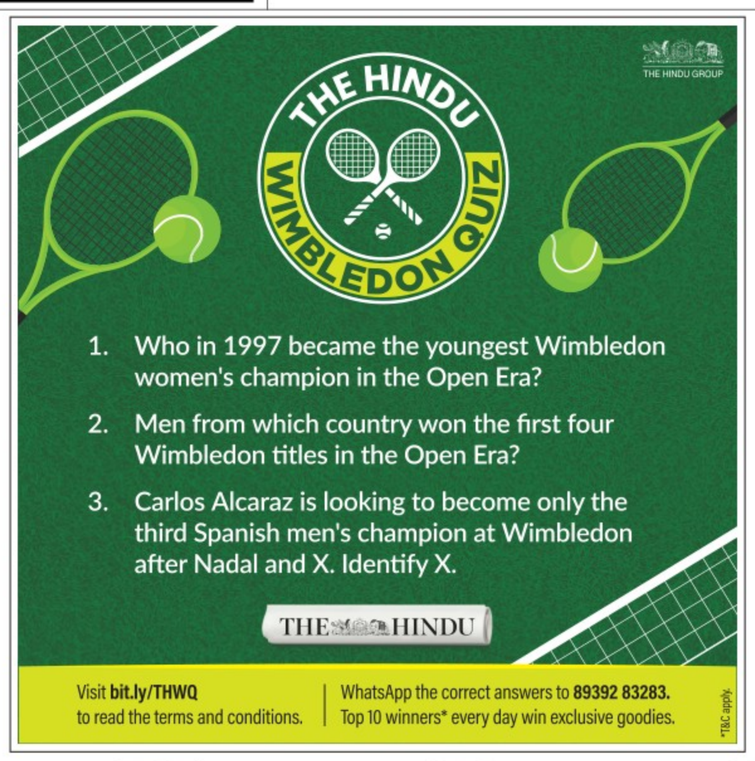
Sri.Thyagaraja.B, Advocate, 5/1, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Blr-03.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MR. SANDEEP KUMAR SINGH S/o. Bashisht Prasad Singh, and MRs. DIVYA KUSHWAHA D/o Ghanshyam Singh, both are residing at Residing at: No. 205, 2nd Floor, Ansal Forte Apartmets, Roopena Agrahara, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru - 560068, has negotiated to purchase the schedule property from MR. PRADEEP.S SANKARANARAYANAN S/o. M. Sankaranarayanan and MRS. SHALINI.V VASUDEVAN W/o. Pradeep .S Sankaranarayanan.
If anybody having objections or claims for the schedule property may lodge their objections with the undersigned in writing with supporting documents within 07 (Seven) days from the date of this publication. Any objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and If no such objections or claims are received within the said period my clients will proceed to purchase the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of a Three Bedroom Apartment bearing No. D2-4044 in the Fourth Floor in the Apartment Building known as "SOBHA DAFFODIL" having a built-up area of 1489.146 Square Feet and 315.084 square feet of proportionate share in common areas Club house and Swimming Pool and with One Car Parking space in the basement and 968.84 Square Feet of UDS, constructed on the residentially converted land bearing survey nos.27, 29/11, 29/12, 29/13 and 29/5, Haralakunte Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, totally measuring about 38,775 square meters (4,17,374.10 square feet) presently bearing BBMP Municipal No. 1698/897/27, 29/5, 29/11, 29/12 & 13 F No. D2-4044.
East By : Private Property;
West By : Road and thereafter remaining portion of Sy. No. 27 & 28/1 of Haralakunte Village;
North by : Remaining portion of Sy. No. 27 retained by M/s Sobha Innercity Technopolis Pvt Ltd and M/s Sobha Developers Ltd and Defence Land;
South by : Land in Sy. Nos. 28/1, 29/1 and 29/3 Haralakunte Village;
C. JAYANTHI, Advocate
Mobile No. 9035797090
LEGAL ADVICE WORKSTEAD
No. 764/A, 19th Main, 22nd Cross, 2nd Sector HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has intended to purchase the lands described in the schedule mentioned hereunder. The said properties standing in the name of Smt.Rathanamma D/o.Late. B.M.Srinivasappa. If any person has got any objections, right, title or interest in any manner whatsoever in the schedule properties, may approach the following addressees with the documents of title in the schedule properties within 10 days from today.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the immovable properties bearing Sy No.1/3, municipal Katha bearing no 706/1/3/1 measuring 720 sqft East to west 40 feet and North to South 18 feet situated at Byatarayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560064, in all measuring about 2000Sq. is bounded as follows:-
East by : Padmavathi Property , West by : Manasakumar's Property North by : Jodidhar's Property. South by : Private Property

Sri.Thyagaraja.B, Advocate, 5/1, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Blr-03.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client has intended to purchase the lands described in the schedule mentioned hereunder. The said properties standing in the name of Manasa Kumar W/o Kumar. If any person has got any objections, right, title or interest in any manner whatsoever in the schedule properties, may approach the following addressees with the documents of title in the schedule properties within 10 days from today

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

All that piece and parcel of the immovable Sy No.1/3, municipal Katha bearing no 706/1/3/3 measuring 720 sqft East to west 40 feet and North to South 18 feet situated at Byatarayanapura, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560064, in all measuring about 2000Sq. is bounded as follows:-
East by : Padmavath's Property , West by : B.M.Rajanna & Hariraju's Property North by : Krishnappa's Property. South by : 4 feet Road & Pillappa's Property;

Sri.Thyagaraja.B, Advocate, 5/1, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Sampige Road, Malleshwaram, Blr-03.

NMDC Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Donimalai Complex, Donimalai Township, Po-Sandur Taluk, Ballari Dist.
Pin - 583118 (CIN) : L13100TG1958GOI001674

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding Environmental Clearance

It is hereby informed to the public that, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEFCC), New Delhi has accorded "Environmental Clearance" vide EC identification No.EC23A001KA138525 & File No.J-11015/13/2021-IA.II(M) dated 10.07.2023 to Kumaraswamy Iron Ore Mine of NMDC Limited (A Government of India Enterprise) for "Expansion of production capacity from 8.6 MTPA [Iron ore (ROM): 7 MTPA + Waste; 1.6 MTPA] to 16.25 MTPA [Iron ore (ROM); 10 MTPA + Waste; 6.25 MTPA] along with 1800TPH Crushing and Screening plant for the restricted working area of 477.49 Ha out of total mine lease area of 639.80 Ha (Mining Lease no: 1111) at Deogiri Village, Tehsil Sandur, Ballari district, Karnataka" in accordance with the provisions of EIA notfication, 2006.

A copy of the Environment Clearance letter no.J-11015/13/2021-IA.II (M) dated 10.07.2023 is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Regional Office, Ballari. It can also be downloaded from parivesh portal of MoEFCC (www.parivesh.nic.in) and NMDC Ltd., website (www.nmdc.co.in).

Sd/-
Chief General Manager
NMDC Limited.
Donimalai-583118.

Har Ek Kaam Desh Ke Naam / ISPATI IRADA

Welfare schemes may help poor children's brains grow normally

The relationship between brain development and low income is relatively well-established, but the role of anti-poverty policies in this relationship is not. A recent study, based on the brain scans of over 10,000 children aged 9-11, located in 17 U.S. states, filled this gap

Sayantan Datta

A child carries leftover food from a hotel in Andhra Pradesh's Adilabad town. Studies have reported that children and young adults growing up in low-income families had lower cortical volume and did relatively poorly in tests for academic performance. The Hindu

In 1844, Frederich Engels remarked in a book that the "physical effects of the living conditions of the poor had their effects from early life". He had seen scrofula (tuberculosis of the neck), rickets, typhus, cholera, and smallpox as representative of the ways in which poverty is embodied in the bodies of the members of the working classes.

In the 1960s, neuroscientists began finding evidence that growing up poor could affect how a young brain develops. Marian Diamond, then a neuroscientist at the University of California, Berkeley, showed that rats that grew up in an "impoverished" environment had "hampered" brain development and learning abilities.

Poverty's affect on the brain

In 2015, three studies reported that human children and young adults growing up in low-income families had lower cortical volume and did relatively poorly in tests for academic performance. The cortex is the outer layer of the brain.

Together with the cortex, one of the 2015 studies focused on another area: the hippocampus. Kimberley Noble, from Columbia University, and her colleagues found that the volume of this deep-seated convoluted structure, widely regarded by scientists as the "seat for learning and memory", correlated positively with a family's socioeconomic status, but not parental income.

Now, a study by researchers from Harvard University and Washington University, published in May 2023 in the journal *Nature Communication*, has demonstrated that children growing up in low-income families indeed risk a smaller hippocampus. The researchers, led by David Weissman, a postdoctoral fellow at the Stress and Development Lab, showed that generous anti-poverty policies substantially lower this risk.

The finding highlights how state-level public policies can potentially address the correlation between brain development and low income.

The study emphasises "how household finances are connected to brain development in children," Akash Gautam, a University of Hyderabad neuroscientist who works on hippocampal development, told *The Hindu*. Children from low-income families might have a smaller hippocampus, which in turn might relate to later "inequities in [their] physical and mental health outcomes."

How was the study conducted?

The relationship between brain development and low income is relatively well-established, but the role of anti-poverty policies in this relationship is not.

The researchers used data from the Adolescent Brain Cognitive Development (ABCD) study, the "largest long-term study of brain development and child health in the United States."

Here, the authors looked at the brain scans of over 10,000 children aged 9-11 years, located in 17 U.S. states. These states had different costs of living and anti-poverty programmes of varying generosity.

The programmes that the authors considered included two cash-assistance schemes and Medicaid, a health insurance programme.

The researchers found that the hippocampal volume was indeed larger for participants belonging to families with relatively higher income.

Impaired hippocampal development has been associated with higher risk of psychopathologies, such as major depressive disorder and post-traumatic stress disorder. So the researchers also tested the relationship between family income and the incidence of internalising (e.g. depressive disorders, anxiety, etc.) and externalising psychopathologies (e.g. drug abuse, violent behaviour, etc.) in children. They found that family income was "negatively associated" with the incidence of these psychopathologies: higher the family income, lower the incidence of internalising and externalising psychopathologies in the children.

The authors noted that the strengths of these associations varied across the 17 states where the data was available, so they found out whether the costs of living and anti-poverty policies in these states could influence these associations.

"We observed a three-way interaction between family income, cost of living, and generosity of cash assistance programs in predicting hippocampal volume," the paper stated. If one were living in a low-income household in a state with a higher cost of living, and received generous cash benefits, their hippocampal volumes were, on average, 34% larger than those who lived in low-income households in states with a relatively higher cost of living and *lower* cash benefits.

Similarly, the authors found that for children growing up in low-income households, "more generous cash benefits are associated with greater reductions in internalising problems".

So the study found that poverty could shape biological properties, like brain development, and highlighted the role governments and public policy could have in ameliorating the biological effects of poverty.

Did the study have shortcomings?

Poverty is often a symptom of more systematic discrimination. For example, in 2007-2011, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and African-Americans had the highest poverty rates in the U.S. Similarly, in India, communities listed as Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) are significantly poorer than those not listed in these categories, according to a recent study.

So, what if the patterns the study uncovered were not due to poverty but due to racism? In an email to *The Hindu*, Dr. Weissman agreed to the possibility, adding that they tried to rule out as many alternative explanations as possible, including racial and ethnic makeup of the sample, using supplemental analyses.

"The results held consistently across these analyses," he said, adding that the results may not be directly applicable in India, because the "macroeconomic conditions in India are very different".

However, Dr. Weissman said that their findings supported something "intuitive" that could be generalisable, "that policies or economic conditions that have a direct influence on a family's financial resources matter for children's brain development."

The study also worked with the ABCD database, which allowed them to sample brain scans only from 17 out of the 50 U.S. states. Rohan Sarkar, a PhD scholar at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Kolkata, said that despite the dataset being broader than in previous studies, the data being limited to 17 states limited the "power of the inference provided".

How can welfare help?

Mr. Sarkar and Dr. Gautam both said that the relationship between socioeconomic status and hippocampal development might not be "so simple". According to Dr. Gautam, while hippocampal size is correlated to cognitive development and the incidence of psychopathologies, a smaller hippocampus wouldn't necessarily indicate that "a child will experience significant impairments in these areas".

> Poverty can shape biological properties, like brain development, and governments could have a role in ameliorating the biological effects of poverty

"The brain is a complex and adaptable organ, and compensatory mechanisms can sometimes mitigate these effects," he added.According to the new paper, more generous anti-poverty policies could "amplify or reduce stressors associated with low income". That is, having access to more financial resources could "shield families from experiencing some of the chronic stressors associated with low income that can influence hippocampal development". Finally, 'generous' anti-poverty policies don't just increase family income; they can also allow "families to make decisions that lead to a decrease in wages but that also reduce stress, such as working fewer hours," per the new paper.

What is the study's future?

The authors of the current paper worked with data collected in 2017-2018. But according to Dr. Weissman, its youth participants have returned every year, allowing the researchers to study how "policy changes that have occurred since these data were collected ... has influenced the trajectories of the youth's mental health and brain development".

The study also illustrated how "investments in social safety net programs" could lower the high cost of "addressing mental health, educational, and economic challenges resulting from socioeconomic disparities in neurodevelopment" tomorrow.

Sayantan Datta (they/them) are a queer-trans freelance science writer, communicator and journalist. They currently work with the feminist multimedia science collective TheLifeofScience.com and tweet at @queersprings.

An LVM3 rocket carrying Chandrayaan-3 being moved to the launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Station, Sriharikota. PTI

When will Chandrayaan mission start and end?

Arkatapa Basu

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is scheduled to launch its Chandrayaan-3 mission at 2.35 pm IST on July 14 from Sriharikota.

The lunar mission is a follow-up to the Chandrayaan-2, launched in September 2019 and which failed to complete the soft landing due to problems with the onboard computer and the propulsion system, and crashed on the moon's surface.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission plans to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface. It will forego the orbiter from the previous mission but will largely retain the same lander and rover design.

ISRO first announced Chandrayaan-3 in January 2020. Initially slated for 2021, the development and assembling of the spacecraft was delayed due by the COVID-19 pandemic. The second wave of the pandemic caused further delays even though the manufacturing and testing of the propulsion systems were almost done by May 2021.

With the date finally being set on July

The module will take approximately a month to reach the moon from the time of launch. The landing is scheduled for August 23-24 although this may change depending on when the Sun rises over the moon

2023, the spacecraft will be launched onboard the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM 3) rocket.

Consisting of a separate lander and rover module, the spacecraft is likely to land near the moon's South Pole and operate for one lunar day, equivalent to 14 earth days. Among other things, its lander will have more robust impact legs than its predecessor.

The mission will also follow the same trajectory as Chandrayaan-2, where the propulsion module will orbit earth several times before slingshotting towards the moon. Once within the moon's gravitational pull, the module will lower itself to a 100 x 100 km circular orbit. Then, the lander will detach and descend to the surface.

The module will take approximately a month to reach the moon from the time of launch. The landing is scheduled for August 23-24, although this may change depending on when the Sun rises over the Moon. If there is a delay, ISRO will reschedule the landing for September.

The previous ISRO chairperson K. Sivan has described the descent as "15 minutes of terror".

Once on the lunar surface, the lander, called 'Vikram' (after Vikram Sarabhai), will deploy its four scientific payloads to study the moon's surface temperature and subterranean characteristics. The module has an instrument called 'Spectro-polarimetry of HAbitable Planet Earth' (SHAPE), to collect data about the light emitted and reflected by the earth.

The rover, called 'Pragyan', will study the lunar surface using chemical and visual tests.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

If everything seems under control, you're not going fast enough: Mario Andretti

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The Hubble constant denotes the extent to which large objects in the universe are moving apart. Dividing the speed of light by the constant gives the Hubble radius. Objects that are farther apart than the Hubble radius are said to be moving apart faster than X. What is X?

QUESTION 2

The escape velocity is the minimum speed required to escape an object's gravitational pull without being propelled. The escape velocity of earth is 11.18 km/s. What is the estimated escape velocity from the surface of a neutron star?

QUESTION 3

Some stars (or star-remnants) in a galaxy could have a travelling speed much greater than the average speed of stars in that galaxy. The Milky Way is expected to have around a thousand such stars. One of the fastest such is PSR B2224+65. What are these stars called?

QUESTION 4

What is currently approaching the Milky Way galaxy at 1,080,000 kmph?

QUESTION 5

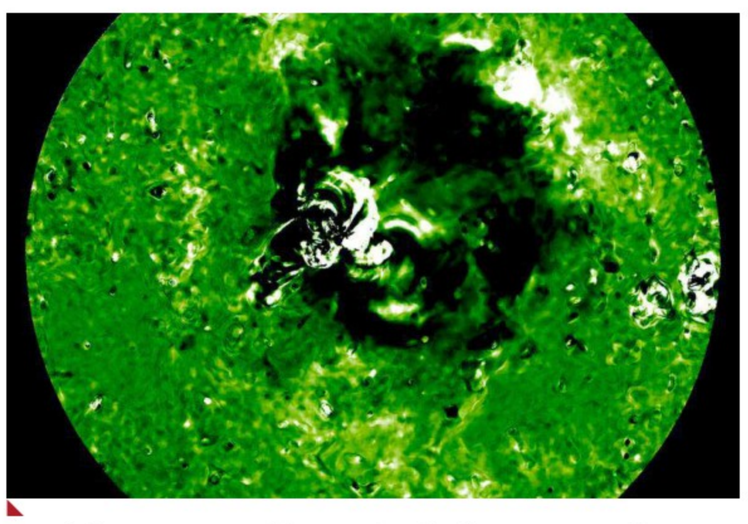
Name the unit that is used in geology to measure the rate at which the earth's surface is sinking as a result of erosion. One metre per second is equal to 31.54 trillion of these units.

Answers to July 7 quiz:

1. Phenomenon that occurs when a person experiences temporary paralysis – Ans: Sleep paralysis
2. Condition where a person experiences recurrent episodes of sudden, irresistible sleep – **Ans: Narcolepsy**
3. Intense fear of falling asleep – **Ans: Somniphobia**
4. Condition that transports someone into the realm of Kumbhakarna – **Ans: Kleine-Levin syndrome ('Sleeping Beauty' syndrome)**
5. Brief, involuntary muscle contractions or jerks that occur when falling asleep – **Ans: Hypnic jerks**

Visual: **Pineal gland**

First contact: Ashraf Bacha | Himanshu Verma | Utkarsha Verma | Shubham Bhosale | Devarshi Pandya



Visual:This is an image of the Sun taken by the STEREO Satellite in May 2007. It shows a phenomenon that has been found to travel over the solar surface at 3.6 million kmph. Name it. NASA

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

State govt. to set monthly targets for officials on recovery of encroached land

BJP leader Y. Narayanswamy claims value of encroached land in Bengaluru is around ₹1.5 lakh crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a bid to reclaim encroached government land in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts, the State government will set monthly targets for officials to recover the encroached land.

Indicating that encroachment over the years happened due to the complicity of government officials and advocates, Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda told the Legislative Council on Wednesday, "Targets for clearing encroachments and evicting encroachers would be given for officials who are tasked with anti-encroachment drives in Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts." He was responding to a question from BJP member Y. Narayanswamy.

A file photo of BBMP carrying out an anti-encroachment drive near Marathahalli.

The Minister said, "Clearing encroachment will depend on the will of the government. We have already taken steps to clear encroachments. About 8 to 10 cases have been taken up already." He said that many land parcels recovered between 2014 and 2017 have been encroached upon again. "We will set up procedures and identify government land. We will get orders from assistant commissioners and special Deputy Commissioners and make RTC entries before removing encroachments."

Mr. Narayanswamy pointed out that as many as 38,947 acres of government land have been encroached upon in Bengaluru city in as many as 14,660 cases.

"Just about 3,898 acres have been recovered. If one calculates the cost of encroached land at an average of ₹5 crore per acre, the value of encroached land will be around ₹1.5 lakh crore. You can utilise the money generated from the recovery to fund the guarantees." He also said that in most of the cases, the encroachments have taken place in connivance of revenue officials with agents, and complicity of advocates. In response, the Minister said, "There is no need for the government to utilise the recovered land to fund the guarantees. I have also spoken to the advocate general about the issue of advocates' involvement, and he has also acknowledged it. We will put in place a system to rectify the problem."

On the other issue of recovered land being encroached again, he said, "We will consider changing rules to make gram panchayat or the departments responsible to ensure the land do not get encroached again."

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Helpline Nos : 9765676830, 9764600206, 9224470711, 9156177212

BBMP kept out of discussions on proposed tunnel roads

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has been kept out of deliberations on the much-hyped proposed tunnel roads proposed by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

AECOM Asia Co Ltd, a consulting agency that prepared the Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) for the 92.195 km elevated corridors (EC) proposed in 2017, has now given a design and estimation for the tunnel which is slated to be built on the same six corridors where corridor was planned. As in the EC project, the company has suggested a hybrid annuity mode for the newly proposed project.

The EC project was assigned to Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited. Though the DFR for the EC was prepared in 2017, the project did not take off. The total cost of the project was estimated at ₹22,666.95 crore. The implementation was planned in three phases.

Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar thinks the BBMP is a body that should be tasked with maintenance and not the execution of the project, says an official. FILE PHOTO

"In the first phase, the tunnel will connect Yelahanka and Central Silk Board in the North to South Corridor, and Mekhri Circle and Cantonment in the East-West Corridor (K.R. Puram to Cantonment). The 50-km road will cost approximately ₹22,000 crore at ₹450 crore per km," an official in the Dy.CM's office said. The agency made a presentation to the Dy.CM recently.

Maintenance, not execution

A senior official in the BBMP's road infrastructure section said the tunnel road was not discussed in any of the meetings in the BBMP by Mr. Shivakumar. "The Minister thinks that the BBMP is a body that should be tasked with maintenance and not the execution of the project. To some extent, it is true, but BBMP being the local planning and development authority, can be involved in the project," said the official.

Another senior official said the BBMP could also hire consulting agencies for various project-related activities. BBMP should have been kept in loop about proposals, and suggestions could have been sought, the official added.

An official in the Urban Development Department said there was no clarity about the implementing agency and model through which the project can be materialised.

Many models do not seem feasible due to the massive project cost, said the official.

Chandrayaan-3 launch to be live-streamed at planetarium

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the occasion of the launch of Chandrayaan-3, the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium is organising programmes for students and general public on Friday. While the launch will be live streamed on large screens from 2.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m., popular science communicator and broadcaster B.R. Guruprasad will describe the launch in Kannada from 1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

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BCU V-C to visit U.K.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice-Chancellor, Bengaluru City University, on an invitation from Wolverhampton University, will be visiting the United Kingdom for a period of one week from July 15. According to a release from Bengaluru City University, Dr. Gandhi has been invited as a Visiting Research Scholar to share his knowledge to the ongoing research project "Sustainable SMART cities coping with crisis, lessons from a global pandemic".

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUL. 13	
RISE 06:00	SET 18:50
RISE 02:04	SET 15:11
FRIDAY, JUL. 14	
RISE 06:01	SET 18:50
RISE 02:50	SET 16:06
SATURDAY, JUL. 15	
RISE 06:01	SET 18:50
RISE 03:40	SET 17:01

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	25
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain or thundershower will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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Water adalat today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board will hold water adalat on Thursday from 9.30 a.m to 11 a.m in various parts of the city to settle issues related to water billing, delay in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection and other problems.

According to a release, the adalat will be held at North-2-1, South 1-1, South 2-1, South West-1, South West-4, East 1-2, East 2-2, South East 2, South East 5, West-1-2, and West 2-2 sub divisions.

For problems regarding water supply, the public can call the 24x7 call centre helpline number: 1916. Complaints can also be filed through WhatsApp no: 8762228888, the release stated.

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Dr Nisarahmed Kazi, who opted for SPMF-Therapy for himself says, "There has been clear improvement in all fronts and good initiation for further improvement." Similarly, Dr Rajesh Rane, an orthopaedic surgeon himself, has benefited from SPMF-Therapy for arthritis.

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THE HINDU
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Can short technical courses help solve Bengaluru's garbage problem?

Green-collar jobs may not be the most lucrative career option yet, but experts feel there may be increased interest in short-term waste management courses

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The syllabus of the course covers areas such as management of municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, industrial waste, and hospital waste.

Youngsters from marginalised groups and women are given priority. Students are offered support in job placements or for beginning their own ventures.

It has been five years since Samvada Baduku started offering a certification course in waste supply chain management (WSCM). A six-month long course with a capacity of 20 students, it has been seeing an increased number of applicants every year.

For the batch that would begin on 1 August, around 100 applications have come in. This time there have been applications from even far-off places like Jammu and Kashmir, New Delhi, Haryana, Odissa and Nagpur.

"The medium of communication is Kannada, and therefore we will have to turn down those applications," says Bindiya, course faculty for waste management at Baduku.

"We may come up with an online course or an English version of the current course for such applicants," she adds.

Green-collar jobs in waste management may not still be perceived as the most lucrative career option, but according to experts, the interest in such courses has been gradually rising over the years. They note that the time may be ripe for more players to offer similar programmes.

The possibilities

The WSCM course by Baduku is a residential programme comprising four months of in-class training and two months of internship.

"The course has various aspects. We impart sector-specific, technical and communication skills, and perspectives on the sector, social structure, gender and climate change. Aspects such as how we represent ourselves in society are also covered," Ms. Bindiya explains.

In-house faculties as well as sector-specific experts would teach students on specialised topics like biomedical waste, e-waste, sustainable living, climate change and so on.

According to Ms. Bindiya, while many take up the course with the idea of a career and livelihood, there are also several others who sign up to gain more knowledge about the sector with genuine concern about the environment.

"Unless humans stop consumption, there's going to be waste generation. This means this is a 'moving' field and there will always be demand for those with technical expertise in this field," Ms. Bindiya says.

For admissions, beyond educational qualifications, factors like the applicants' social background, gender, knowledge and interest in the sector and willingness to stay on campus are considered. Youngsters from marginalised groups and women are given priority. After course completion students are offered support with getting placed at jobs or beginning their own ventures.

"I have been seeing youngsters continuing in this field after the course are working as managers and supervisors. There have also been start-ups, particularly in dry waste management. We are also encouraging startups so that more and more entrepreneurs take up such initiatives and solve problems related to waste management," Ms. Bindiya says.

According to her, a few former students have already started their own initiatives. Prakash from Hoskote is running a DWCC in a tie-up with the gram panchayat. Eco Baduku promotes and markets upcycled goodies made by marginalised communities across Karnataka.

Longer courses

While Baduku's course has been seeing increased interest, a master's course in solid waste management started by Bangalore University in 2019 has not been finding many takers. Although the admission strength is 20, the course has been taken up by only four to five students in each batch. Three batches have graduated so far.

Factors like the applicants' social background, gender, knowledge and interest, and willingness to stay on campus are considered.

"Last semester we didn't have any students, probably owing to Covid difficulties," says Dr. K. L Prakash, chairperson of the Environmental Sciences department at Bangalore University.

The syllabus of the course which spans four semesters covers the management of municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, industrial waste and hospital waste among others in detail.

"We have initiated the course with less number of students. As it is a new course there may be some apprehension around it. But we are creating more awareness around its possibilities and scope," Dr. Prakash notes.

According to him, the course has good scope and students are likely to find jobs in municipal bodies like BBMP and BDA, and firms managing waste.

He pointed out that a few former students of the course from the North East are currently working in the municipality offices of their respective states and a few from Bengaluru have found jobs in private firms and waste segregation units.

"There are various opportunities from the taluk level to metropolitan cities. Waste management is currently a burning issue and also a major component of the smart city concept," Dr. Prakash notes.

More professionals needed

Nalini Sekhar, founder of Hasiru Dala, an NGO working with waste workers, notes that a job in the waste management sector is not easy.

"On one side the citizens pressurise you. On the other side, there are the corporators and elected representatives. It is not an easy business. And if you are ethical, it is all the more difficult. That could be one of the reasons for the reluctance for taking up the course."

She notes that it is important to create more job opportunities in the sector to attract more students and thereby create more professionals in the field.

According to her, while students may be sceptical of taking up masters-level courses in solid waste management, there may be more takers for short-term courses.

"Short-term courses like certification courses will be much better and will have more demand. There are also several waste management companies coming up and they would be looking for people. The Rural Development and Gram Panchayat (RDPR) is also looking for people. So eventually there may be job prospects," she says.

"We should introduce more and more of such courses on solid waste management and plastic waste management also as a specialisation. Now is a good time to do these kinds of courses because our laws and policy are set, and infrastructure is there," she adds.

The course has good scope, and students are likely to find jobs in municipal bodies like BBMP and BDA.

Bengaluru generates about 6,000 tonnes of waste per day and solid waste management in the city has been an ongoing issue. Not enough processing plants to process all the waste generated, lack of segregation at source, huge quantity of single-use plastic and lack of an adequate number of professionals contribute to the problem.

Ongoing issue

"How to process the waste or who will process it? Who is the professional to whom you can go for help? That is what is lacking right now," Ms. Sekhar says. She emphasizes that the need to create a cadre of professionals with expertise in processing to solve the existing problems.

Dr. Prakash echoes similar sentiments.

"If we have more professionals with technical expertise this problem can be easily solved with more manpower," he says.

The Solid Waste Management Round Table (SWMRT), a collective of solid waste management practitioners which Ms. Sekhar is a part of, has also been coming up with several initiatives that promote knowledge creation.

SwachaGraha Kalika Kendra, a first-of-its-kind composting learning centre, Eco Literacy and Community Engagement Programme for institutions and corporates and Trashonomics for children have been a few. "Our speciality is training. And we have developed a whole bunch of training material for RDPR which is now a curriculum for all the 4600+ gram panchayats," Ms. Sekhar notes.

Transgender persons face hurdles while availing themselves of 1% horizontal reservation in govt. jobs

The government authorities' plan of action and discourse, which otherwise is tardy, needs to be time-bound, robust, and community-friendly

Hrutwi Kshirsagar and Bhavana M
BENGALURU

On my first day of work at High Court, the judge Venkateshappa V, under whom I was working, called all the court staff and told them to treat me equally and see me just like any other person. He even told them that he would send them a notice if he got to know that I was being ill-treated," recalled Madhu, a 25-year-old transgender woman.

She is among those transgender persons who have availed the 1% reservation given to them in government jobs. Karnataka was the first State in the country to notify a 1% reservation in government jobs for transgender persons, in 2021. Two years down the lane, transgenders who have availed themselves of these jobs are happy with the progressive work environment at government offices while the majority of third gender persons still struggle to apply or secure these jobs. Madhu now works as an attender under another judge at Chikkanayakanahalli in Tumakuru. She spoke about how she was never laughed at or given excess work on purpose in any workspace. She was always assured that her transgender identity would not be highlighted to the public without any reason or her consent. She tells how work is more important to the public and her employer than her gender.

Shravya, another 24-year-old transwoman also said that government officials and higher officers respected transgenders while a few others at the office were simply unaware. Although she used to earn her living as a sex worker before, she later relocated to Bangalore, obtained a medical card and transgender certificate with community assistance, and applied for government jobs in Madikeri and Karwar.

However, she cannot help but remember that before securing her current job, she had to face discrimination and humiliation during the medical check-up. Despite transgender friendly work atmospheres, these persons have had to encounter some uncomfortable experiences while obtaining these jobs.

Many people in the community discontinue their education because of the discrimination faced by them. K. MURALI KUMAR

Madhu recollected an instance where she had gone to the consumer court in Bengaluru to apply for a D-group job and when she mentioned her gender (as transgender) in the application, the staff members were shocked and surprised.

Such hurdles among other things have kept transgender persons from trying to get the reserved jobs. "Despite passing matriculation and acquiring skills of data entries and communicating in English, many people in the community lack adequate job opportunities." said Nisha Gulur, Program Director of GSM (Gender and Sexual Minority division), Sangama.

Elaborating on the issue, she said, "Many people in the community discontinue their education in eighth and ninth standards because of the discrimination faced by them at educational institutions. Moreover, the bureaucratic procedural mandates, attestation of Adhaar cards, and age verification are barriers for our people."

Meanwhile, the government authorities' plan of action and discourse, which otherwise is tardy, needs to be time-bound, robust, and community-friendly, activists opine. There is less than half of the percentage implementation the High Court sanctioned for the State, they said.

"0.26-0.50% of transgenders are working in government sectors in the state of Karnataka. There are 14 out of the 30 districts which have an inclusion of the transgender community in level D work," cited Rakshitha T.G, Board member of ONDEDE Organization.

She demanded policy enaction at every level and department of the government and requiring district-level welfare boards.

B.T Venkatesh, Lawyer for the petition of horizontal reservation, emphasized the importance of educated members in the community. "Their education is stalled by the time their sexuality is accepted and pronounced," he said. These occurrences are prominent in rural spaces where orthodoxy is inculcated in every individual. Thus, this horizontal reservation acts as a space, a framework that must be pushed further and pressurized by the community onto the government to bear its fruit, he added.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 13, 1973

Devaraj Urs to Write to PM on Steel Plant

Bangalore, July 12: The Mysore Chief Minister Mr. Devaraj Urs said here to-day that he was writing to the Prime Minister to know the latest thinking of the Government of India on the Vijayanagar steel plant.

The Chief Minister said this when pressmen drew his attention to the reports that the Centre was thinking of shelving the proposed steel plants in the South, including the Vijayanagar unit. Pressmen also told him about the remarks of the Opposition Leader in the Assembly. Mr. Deve Gowda yesterday that the legislators and MPs should resign en masse to protest against the Centre's attitude of the steel plant issue.

Creditable Performance of Central Jail School

Bangalore, July 12: At a time when large-scale failure of students in public examinations is causing alarm, schools getting cent per cent results have every reason to pat themselves on their backs. It will be more so if it is a jail school and the students are prisoners.

The Government Middle School, Central Jail, Bangalore, secured cent per cent success in the seventh standard district level common examination held in March 1973. All 15 men and six women prisoners who took the examination passed. Of them eight men and three women secured first class. The achievement of the jail school (there are separate classes for men and women prisoners) is all the more creditable considering the fact that most of the students are in their middle age.

Minister: Tata Technologies may invest ₹2,000 crore in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tata Technologies has come forward to set up three Common Engineering Facility Centres (CEFCs) in the State at an investment of ₹2,000 crore, said Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil.

The proposal was to set up the centres through the PPP model where Tata Technologies would have a 70% stake while the State government would have a 30% stake in the venture, said the Minister. These CEFCs will cater to Advanced Manufacturing 4.0, Electric Vehicle Testing and Aerospace & Defence and vastly benefit upcoming MSMEs and start-ups in these sectors, he said, adding this was the first such move to facilitate growth of small companies.

Representatives of Tata Technologies met the Minister at Vidhana Sabha on Wednesday and submitted the proposal. Each of these centres would require an investment of ₹630 crore and a land requirement of 5 acres.

Entrance test for PhD candidates

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore University will conduct an entrance test on July 16 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. for those who have applied for PhD programmes for 2023. Download the admission ticket from bangaloreuniversity.ac.in

Externment orders must follow due process of law as they keep persons away from family and place: HC

The court made the observations while quashing the order of externment of one Kumar from Dharwad district to Gadag

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka said that authorities must adhere to the provisions of the Karnataka Police Act while passing the order of externment against a person as externment has serious consequences and keeps away a person from his family and place.

The court also said that a person, against whom an externment order is proposed by the authorities under the KP Act, is entitled to be represented by a legal practitioner for the purpose of tendering his explanation and examining the witnesses.

Justice Anil B. Katti made these observations while quashing the order of externment of one Kumar from Dharwad district to Gadag. The Assistant Commissioner of Dharwad, in his capacity as the sub-divisional magistrate, had passed the externment order in February based on the report filed by the police stating that the presence of the petitioner in Dharwad may cause danger or harm to persons or properties.

The court said there was nothing on record in the order, passed by the Assistant Commissioner, to show that the petitioner was given to understand that he is entitled to engage an advocate and file an explanation to the show-cause notice on the proposed externment. "The mere obtaining signature of the person on the order sheet of the externment proceedings is not enough to hold that reasonable opportunity of tendering explanation to the show-cause notice was given," the court said.

Pointing out that there must be application of mind by the officer passing the externment order based on apprehension made by police, the court said externment orders without proper inquiry cannot be sustained.

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This is to inform the General Public that my client **SYED AIJAZ HUSSAIN** S/o SYED MUJAHID HUSSAIN has agreed to purchase below mentioned **SCHEDULEPROPERTY** from its present Owner **Mr.N.E.K Gowtham S/o V. N. Kanakaraj.**

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Bangalore Dated:13.07.2023

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NO. KSIC/PD/SWF/COCO-OIL/01/2023-24 Date: 11.07.2023

Tender for Procurement of 222 Tins (15 Kgs. each) of KCOGF/ any other similar brand Coconut Oil

TENDER are invited from reputed persons/firms for Procurement of 222 Tins (15 Kgs. each) of KCOGF/any other similar brand Coconut oil for a duration of six months from August-2023 to January-2024 for KSIC, Silk Weaving Factory, Mysuru and Silk Weaving Unit, Channapatna.

Tender Documents, details of the Notification, schedule terms & conditions can be downloaded from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for uploading the tender along with **EMD of Rs.13,000/-** through e-Procurement is **27.07.2023 upto 3.00 p.m.** Samples should be submitted to GM, SWF, Mysuru premises on or before due date of submission of tender. The Technical bids will be opened on **28.07.2023 at 3.30 p.m.** Further details can be had from the office of the Undersigned during working hours or **e-procurement helpdesk: 080-4601 0000, 080-2263 1200.**

DIPR/CP/RO510/AAPL/2023-24 **Sd/- GENERAL MANAGER (Proc)**

ODISHA CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
UNIT-VIII, BHUBANESWAR
e-mail: theoccltd@odishaconstruction.com
GSTIN - 21AAACO2571K2ZM

e-Procurement Notice No. 17 /OCCL/2023-24 (on-line)

Name of Work :- **Instrumentation Works of Ghatakeswar Multipurpose Project.**
Total No of Works :- **01** (One) No.
Period of completion :- **6** (Six) calendar months.

Bid Identification No.	Amount put to Tender (Approx.) (Rs.in Lakhs)	Bid Security (through on-line transfer) (in Rs.)	Availability of Tender (On-line)	Submission of Tender (On-line)
OCCL-GMP/ 01/2023-24	197.93 Lakhs	1.98 Lakhs	13.07.2023, 3.30 P.M. to 24.07.2023,5.30 P.M.	13.07.2023, 3.30 P.M. to 24.07.2023,5.30 P.M.

Procurement Officer - **Managing Director, OCC Ltd., Bhubaneswar**
Date of opening of the Technical Bid: **25.07.2023, 12.00 Noon.**
Further detail can be seen from the Govt. website (**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**)

CAD-1246 **Managing Director** OIPR-34120/11/0022/2324

E_Mail : sencrwangul@yahoo.co.in; Ph. No.06764-236404
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, ANGUL
"e" Procurement Notice for Building Work in Odisha
Bid Identification No. Building Online AGL-07/2023-24

No. 1407 // Dt. 07.07.2023 //

1. Name of the Work : **Building Works**
2. Total No. of Work : **01 No.**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.611.33 Lakh**
4. Class of Contractor : **'A' & Special Class**
5. Period of Completion : **11 (Eleven) Calendar Months.**
6. Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul	Building - Online -AGL-07/2023-24	17.07.2023 at 10.00 A.M.	07.08.2023 up to 5.00 P.M.	05.08.2023 up to 1.00 P.M.	08.08.2023 up to 11.00 AM	Will be intimated separately

(1) For detailed Notice Inviting Tenders, Please visit to the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/- B.N.Sarangi,
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Angul.
O-362: OIPR-25180/11/0011/2324

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e - Procurement NOTICE
Letter No. 2332 Dt. 11.07.2023

The Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the **percentage rate** bids in electronic tendering system for construction of **Bridges** under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of **Cuttack for 02 (Two)** number of packages with estimated cost totaling to **Rs.5.73 Cr** including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with **State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways**. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract. Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement. dtd.**18.07.2023**.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in **www.pmgsytenders.gov.in**. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved form and (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (a) (ii) of ITB with **C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Cuttack**, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Summary for key dates is provided below:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.	Tender RWC-11/23	18.07.2023 at 10.30 A.M.	01.08.2023 to 5.00 P.M	31.07.2023 up to 5.00 P.M	02.08.2023 at 10.30 A.M	Will be intimated later on

Date of Submission of original documents such as Original Bid Security, Cost of Bid document and Affidavit : Dt.02.08.2023 at 11.00 A.M. to 04.08.2023 at 05.00 P.M.
Further details can be seen from the website www.pmgsytenders.gov.in
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Cuttack.
O-365: OIPR-25097/11/0011/2324

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayat, Chitradurga
Office of the District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Chitradurga
D. Devraj Urs Bhavan, Stadium Road, Chitradurga – 577501
Pho No 08194-235034 ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ dobcmchitradurga@gmail.com

No.: BCWD/Personnel/O.S./CR-16/2023-24 Date: 10.06.2023

e-Tender Notice

Tender is invited through e-procurement from interested, eligible firms regarding availing services of personnel through outsource agency for post of Data Entry Operator vacant at offices of District and Taluk Backward Classes Welfare Officers of Backward Classes Welfare Department and for Cooks, Kitchen Assistants, Night Watchmen, Housekeeping personnel, Attenders and other posts vacant at Backward Classes Pre-Matric/Post-Matric student Hostels and Morarji Desai Residential Schools for the year 2023-24 and can participate in the Tender through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

(1) Name of the District:- Chitradurga (2) Approx. amount put to e-Tender (Rs. In lakhs):- 664.14 (3) E.M.D. Amount (Rs. In lakhs):- 9.96 Last date for submission of Tender 24.08.2023 at 5.30 Pm. Further information can be obtained from this office during office hours and by logging on to website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/92/2023-24 Sd/- District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Chitradurga.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
TATA ELXSI LIMITED
Registered Office : ITBP Road, Whitefield, Bangalore – 560048

NOTICE is hereby given that the certificate(s) for the undermentioned securities of the Company has/have been lost/misplaced and the holder of the said securities has applied to the Company to issue duplicate certificate(s).

Any person who has a claim in respect of the said securities should lodge such claim with the Company at its Registered Office within 15 days from this date, else the Company will proceed to issue duplicate certificate(s) without further intimation.

Names of holder(s)	Kind of Securities & Face Value (Rs)	No. of Securities	Distinctive Nos
Joydeep Ganguly	Equity Shares of Rs.10.00 per share	200	32415498 to 32415597 AND 32415598 to 32415697

Place:- Serampore **Joydeep Ganguly**
Date:- 13-07-2023 **Name of Holder/ Applicant**

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RISHI Kant, resident of P-41/6, Vishwa Vihar, CV Raman Nagar, Bangalore - 560093, have changed my daughter's name from Aishani Singh to Kimaaya Singh vide affidavit dated 11 July 23 sworn before notary R Basavaraja Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF XXVIII ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 29)
OS. NO. 26523/2021.

BETWEEN
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder
Mr. Pramodh G
Aged about 47 years
S/o Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF

AND :
Mr. SYED MUBARAK AND ANR. ...DEFENDANTS

Summons to Defendant No.2
2) Ms. Hameeda BI
D/o Mr. Jujaiah, Aged about 65 years, 16, Medi Mallasandr Village Hosakote Tq, Bangalore-560067

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 9,52,587.96/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Fifty Two Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Seven and Paisa Ninety Six Only)** apart from future interest of 13.01% p.a., in O.S. No. 26532/2021 and same is pending for adjudication in CCH 29, Before XXVIII Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 21st day of August, 2023 at 11 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Ex-parte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 28th day of June, 2023.

By the order of Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court, Mayohall, BENGALURU- 560 001

Fx & Co.,
Advocates,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAI Mala Devi, Dependent and legally mother of Vivek Prasad Yadav, resident of #18/13, Akash Vihar Camp, Marathahalli, Bangalore - 560037, have changed my name from Jai Mala Devi to Jameela vide affidavit dated 11 July 2023 sworn before notary R Basavaraja Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 29)
O.S. NO: 25322/ 2020

BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Towar, M.G. Road, Bangalore- 560001
Represented by its Officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Promod G, Aged about 46 years, S/o. Mr. Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF

AND :
Mr. Mahesha
S/o. Krishnappa
Aged About 31 Years
House No. 103/94 C,
Near Gangadhareshwara Temple Jaraganahalli
Bangalore- 560078
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,56,741.50/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Fifty Six Thousand Seven Hundred Forty One and Paisa Fifty Only)** apart from future interest of 18% p.a., in **O.S. No. 25322/ 2020** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH- 29,** Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **07th day** of **August, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the **01st** day of **July, 2023.**

By the order of court
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 005

FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No.9, Old No.11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 001

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I Nigappa Karjagi S/O, Suresh Karjagi R/o #961, 4th B Cross, Keerthi Layout, Chandapura, Bengaluru rural, Karnataka, India. Pin: 560099 have changed my name to Shridhar Suresh Karjagi for all purposes

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE V ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND J M F C AT MYSORE
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 532 OF 2021

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007.
And having branch Office ICICI Bank Ltd., retail Assist Product, 1st Floor, Deekshas Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2,3,4, Ramavilas Road, Mysore-570024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Natesh K. M.
S/o Mahadevaish P.
Aged about 38 years,
...PLAINTIFF

AND :
Mr. Sarath Kumar H.M.
Aged About 32 Years,
Son of Mariswamy,
R/at, Holalu Dudda Hobli, Mandya- 571 402.
...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication
To,
Defendant :
Mr. Sarath Kumar H.M.
Aged About 32 Years,
Son of Mariswamy,
R/at, Holalu Dudda Hobli, Mandya- 571402.

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of **Rs. 4,15,018/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Fifteen Thousand and Eighteen Only)** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court, in person or by a pleader on the **24th day, of July 2023** at **11:00 a.m.** to show cause against the suit, and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this **04th** day of **July, 2023.**

By order of the court
Chief Ministerial Officer Civil Civil Judge and JMFC, Mysore

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA
Advocates,
No.4 (10/2), West Park Road, Kumara Park East, Bangalore- 560001

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RISHI Kant, resident of P-41/6, Vishwa Vihar, CV Raman Nagar, Bangalore - 560093, have changed my son's name from Yashvasin Singh to Yashvardhan Singh vide affidavit dated 11 July 23 sworn before notary R Basavaraja Bangalore.

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REAL ESTATE

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Mr. Umeshkumar
99207 70002
Email: umeshkumar@podar.org

TENDERS

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
No.1 Rajaji Salai, Chennai-1

The Chennai Port Authority invites e-tender in Central Public Procurement Portal through NIC for **Caretaking cum catering and Housekeeping Services to Guest House at Chennai Port Authority for a period of 3 years.** Interested person may visit
www.chennaiport.gov.in
and
www.eprocure.gov.in
for further details

SECRETARY

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-56)
Hg. 07.08.2023
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 6817 OF 2022

BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Ltd,
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed As a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at :
"Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390007
And having its Regional office at And having its Regional office at ICICI Bank Ltd., 11th Floor, C-Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001. And represented by its POA Holder, Mr. M. Rohit Ali, S/o Ishrath Ali M.,
Aged about 25 years,
...PLAINTIFF

AND :
Mr. Vinod Sharma
S/o Nemi Chand Sharma,
Aged about 33 years,
R/a No 37, Chandru's Enclave. Room No 402, 4A Floor, 3 R Layout Main Road, Wind Tunnel Road, Murugeshpalya, HAL Post, Bengaluru- 560 017.
...DEFENDANT

Summons/Notice through Paper Publication

Defendant
Mr. Vinod Sharma
S/o Nemi Chand Sharma,
Aged about 33 years,
R/a No 37, Chandru's Enclave. Room No 402, 4th Floor, S R Layout Main Road, Wind Tunnel Road, Murugeshpalya, HAL Post, Bengaluru- 560 017.

WHEREAS the above named Plaintiff has instituted case against you for recovery loan amount **Rs.4,06,826/- (Rupees Four Lakh Six Thousand and Eight Hundred and Twenty Six Only)** together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.

You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a advocate/pleader on **07/08/2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the questions of the same. Failing which is matter will be heard and determined as **"EX-PARTE".**

Given under my hand and seal of the Court on this 03rd day of July, 2023.

By the order of the Court
The Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Mr. K N Arvinda Navada
Advocate
No.177/1, (88), 1st Floor, Besides 12th Cross, Cubbonpet Main Road, Bengaluru-560 002.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-61)
O.S. NO. 499 / 2021
H.G. 07-08-2023

Between :
• **M/S** ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore- 560025 and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068. through its authorised representative
Mr. Pramodh G. ...Plaintiff
And :
Balla Sai Nikhil ...Defendants

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Balla Sai Nikhil
S/o Balla Gopal, Aged Major, No. 24 Chennakeshava Building, CKB Layout, Munekolal, Marathahallli, Near Vignesh Show Room, Bengaluru- 560037

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.4,85,830/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LX Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-61), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 07-08-2023 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 27th June, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar.
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', #3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-66)
O.S No. 157/2023
Hg. 11.08.2023

Between:
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007, having its head office at and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative.
Mr. Rohith Ali M ...Plaintiff
And:
Mr. Maruti Vasanth Kamat ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Maruti Vasanth Kamat
S/o. Vasanth Jogu Kamat, Aged about 38 Years, R/at No.40/3C Nisarga Nilaya, Ragavendra Mata Road, Near Reliance Tower, Doddabommasandra, Bangalore-560097.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 8,33,942.57/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **LXV Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-66),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **11.08.2023** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 27th day of June, 2023 at Bangalore.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners, Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', 3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01.

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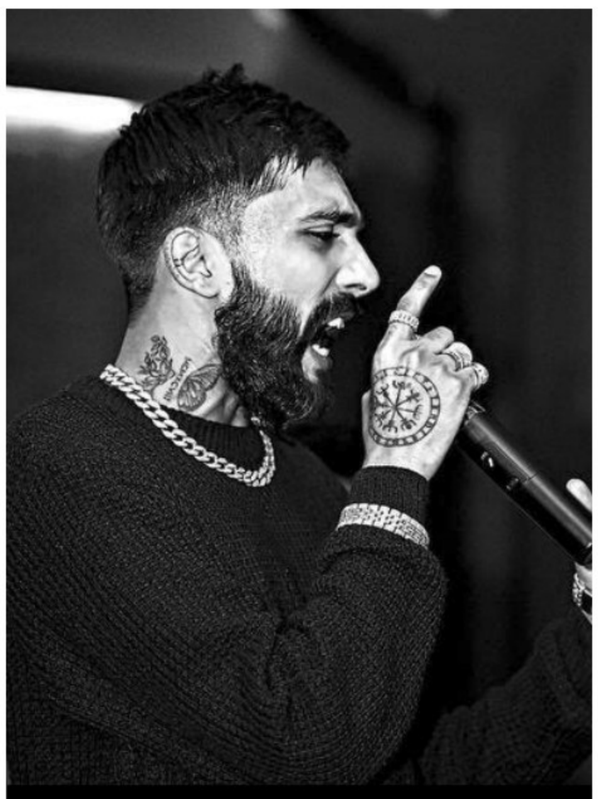
GIG GUIDE

Pick from guitar heroes to rising rap stars this week

Whatever be your taste in music, Bengaluru has a wide range offered by out-of-town artistes to tempt you this weekend

Anurag Tagat



Quality Control 3.0

July 16, 8 pm onwards
Indiranagar Social
Tickets: ₹199 via Skillbox

The third edition of hip-hop gig series, Quality Control declares right off that this is not a normal show. Created in April between Bengaluru crew Cypher and the Social chain, co-founder Carter aka Jalebi the Kidd says he and co-founder rapper Dopeboyghost, just wanted to put together a show to draw a hundred or so people towards hip-hop. "We want to create a place for hip-hop, where fans come to see quality artists often without knowing of them before hand."

The lineup includes Kannada rap favorite MC Bijju, alongside a host of fresh-faced, resolute rappers such as Lalit Jolly, Deadsouth, EMCTruth, Arfazhainaam, Poet Impossible, Rag, Real Ranna and Yung WagWan. Carter says the line-up is centred around Bijju, members of the Kannada collective Seedh Seedha and the picks that their crew, Cypher Cypher, want to back. "Curating lineups is one of my favourite things to do; it's like constructing a puzzle of music, clout, and skill for the world to see."

Mixed bag Rap artiste MC Bijju (left) is one of the many musicians performing this weekend. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Bella

July 16, 8 pm onwards
WL Superclub, HSR Layout
Tickets: ₹499, ₹1499 (VIP) via Skillbox, plus cover charge

Among India's most prolific rap artists right now, Bella (previously known as M-Zee Bella) hits Bengaluru as part of his Bellopia series of shows this week. In a span of three years, Bella has not only released a slew of singles and EPs, but also two albums in 2022. That includes self-aware and hard-hitting tunes such as 'Mein Haar Gya' and 'Mein Bas Kehna Chahta Hoon'. There are debauched hits such as 'Sweet Poison' in his discography as well and the latest from the winner of reality show MTV Hustle is the EP Chemical Reaction. Released via Universal Music, the EP allows Bella to double down on his distinctive Hindi rap, traversing drill and trap music across five songs.

Bharat Chauhan

July 16, 8 pm onwards
Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala
Tickets: ₹799 via Insider.in + ₹500 cover charge at the door

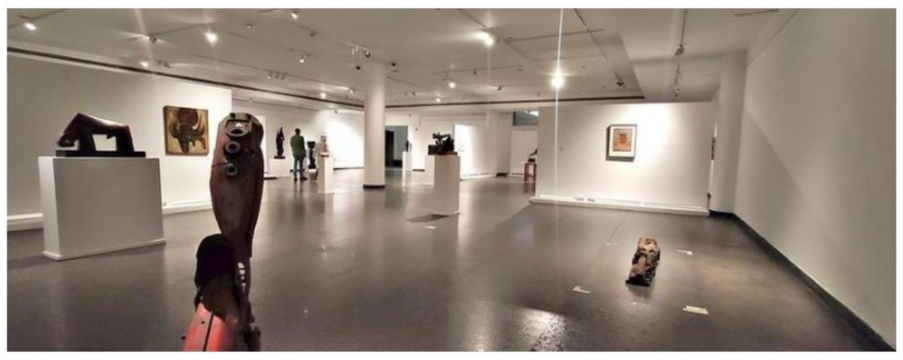
In October last year, New Delhi-based singer-songwriter Bharat Chauhan released his debut album *Qurbat*, marking a new step in his career that had previously thrived on singles such as 'Ghar' and 'Tu Hoti Toh'. While those early hits have accrued millions of streams on digital platforms, *Qurbat* dives deeper into Chauhan's Urdu, Punjabi and Hindi songwriting that is marked by an alluring intimacy. The artiste visits Bengaluru as part of a short run of shows across the country to promote *Qurbat*, which is also described by the artist as having a "melancholic psychedelic" quality. The album's songs – 'Ik Dafa', 'Meri Rahegi Tu' and 'Aasaan Nahin Hota' – all convey different moods and journey from quiet acoustic treatments to all-out dramatic rock.

Chandresh Kudwa with Mohini Dey and Gino Banks

July 14, 8:30 pm onwards
Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala
Tickets: ₹300 via Insider.in + ₹500 cover charge at the door

Nearly four years since he last performed in the city, guitar ace Chandresh Kudwa is back in Bengaluru with seasoned artistes Mohini Dey and drummer Gino Banks backing him up. Taking place as part of Fandom's Love of Live weekly show series, Kudwa returns to perform songs from his solo album *Free Spirit*. Kudwa, who has worked on music and on stage with the likes of AR Rahman, Amit Trivedi and others, says, "I think the pandemic ruined everything for everybody and the entire flow got messed up." Being a guitar instructor as well as a prolific session musician – as is the case with Dey and Banks – Bengaluru kicks off the first of a few more shows for the trio. Apart from songs from *Free Spirit* with a few "organic tweaks", there will be their takes on covers. "I end up singing one or two songs which are famous, so I'm trying to introduce a few vocal-led tracks. It's just fun to let the audience enjoy and join in with the songs."

Time capsules



Ruth Dhanaraj

There is an ongoing exhibition of sculptures at the National Gallery of Modern Art in Bengaluru. Titled Pratibha, this exhibition showcases the works of artists from all over India, encompassing different media and eras in the country's art history.

The art on display is part of the National Gallery of Modern Art's (NGMA) collection and was specially curated for Pratibha by Darshan Kumar YU and Amrita R. While NGMA has hosted other multi-media exhibitions such as Laughing In The Vernacular, Darshan says Pratibha stands out for being a large format affair. In gallery parlance, large format refers to volume or body of work on display.

"This exhibition has been a long time coming and there is something to be said about an entire large format showing that revolves exclusively around sculptures," says Pratibha co-curator Darshan Kumar, adding, "Apart from the expected 3D images, there are 2D pieces such as murals too."

Art history Sculptures from NGMA's Pratibha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pratibha was fashioned to cater to the varied tastes of viewers. "There is a vividity to sculptures as the medium, material, texture, culture, size and colour changes from one piece to the next. From wood and stone to plaster of Paris, cast iron and fibreglass – there are different kinds of works for viewers to enjoy which is the beauty of a sculpture exhibition."

According to Darshan, there are two main reasons to visit a sculptures-only showing – first, it is not often one will get to enjoy the diversity of around 40 sculptures at one place, and second, "There is an unwritten narration to the works that is constantly changing; it is a great opportunity to see the work of certain artists such as S Dhanapal or Shyam Sunder, or others such as S Nandagopal who worked with silver or the bronze art of Valasan Kolleri."

"At the gallery, the eye moves from figurative to abstract works; the language changes too – some are candid, others are intricate, some are suggestive while others are minimalistic. Such occasions give the viewer a chance to experience a certain kind of dialogue with the sculptures," says Darshan.

With works by artists from the 1950s, Pratibha offers a sampling of historic and contemporary Indian sculptures and visitors can see the handiwork of iconic sculptors such as Meera Mukherjee and Piraji Sagara as well as modernists like Karl Antao and Sudarshan Shetty among others.

Pratibha will be on at the National Gallery of Modern Art till August 20, 2023.

Magic of Marathi cinema

Mitramandal, a 40-year-old Marathi community in East Bengaluru, is celebrating 100 years of Marathi cinema with *Prabhat Te Sairat*, a theatrical experience that blends music, dance, and drama.

The name refers to Prabhat Studios, an Indian film production company founded in 1929 by the noted film director V Shantaram and his friends, and the 2016 Marathi hit *Sairat*, directed by Nagraj Manjule.

Sanjeev Keskar, the former president of Mitramandal, reckons the show, complete with authentic costumes, promises to transport the audience into the golden age of Marathi cinema. Catering to audiences of all age groups, *Prabhat Te Sairat* features an impressive line-up of renowned singers and dancers who breathe life into 70 to 80 timeless songs. Marathi actor, Rahul Solapurkar, will serves as the show's narrator.

Prabhat Te Sairat offers an extensive repertoire of Marathi music, ranging from classic tunes to the latest chart-topping hits by the talented duo, Ajay Atul. The carefully curated selection ensures that every member of the audience finds something to cherish and enjoy.

Prabhat Te Sairat will be at New Horizon Engineering College Auditorium on July 16. Tickets for the show are available on bookmyshow.com

Map of memories

Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), is organising a workshop on July 15, which invites the participants to reimagine the city through their personal memories and create intimate maps of their experiences.

Led by renowned architect and building conservationist Veena Choudhary, the exploratory workshop, under the theme 'Thinking Cities' (part of MAP's public programming), introduces the concept of mental mapping.

For ages 18 and above. Entry is free. Visit map-india.org.

CITYBEATS

Parenting humour

JULY 16
Join Anu Vaidyanathan for her stand-up comedy show, BC:AD - Before Children: After Diapers, as she explores how things change before and after motherhood. This performance promises to be a solace for anyone who is going through the chaos of parenting. For ages 16 and above. Tickets on bookmyshow.com.

Sneaker fiesta

JULY 16
Sneaker Stories India and seltzer brand IST present 'Sole Konnect' on July 16 at Skydeck by Sherlock's. This event showcases eight homegrown sneaker brands and DJs spinning old school hip hop and R&B. It also offers a chance to explore, buy, and win prizes. For more information, check out sneakerstoriesindia on Instagram.

A safe space

JULY 16
Listeners' Circle, in collaboration with Dialogues Cafe, has relaunched an initiative wherein individuals can share their stories without fear of judgment. This not-for-profit endeavour aims to promote active listening and empathy. It has conducted over 30 editions. For more information and tickets, visit bookmyshow.com.

Loan app scam: Student found dead

Student who borrowed ₹46,000 was unable to repay the loan

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 22-year-old student allegedly ended his life at his house in HMT Layout, Jalahalli, on Tuesday evening after being harassed by a loan app company.

Tejash Nayar, a 6th-semester engineering student, had reportedly borrowed ₹46,000 using a loan app.

When he was unable to repay the loan, the company executives allegedly harassed him.

When the student was not able to repay the loan, the loan app company executives allegedly harassed him.

Unable to bear the harassment, he allegedly ended his life, after leaving behind a note apologising to his parents.

In his complaint, Gopinath P.S., father of the deceased, said Tejash had been using loan apps for the last one and a half years. When he came to know about it 20 days ago, he helped him with some money to repay the EMI. Since then, he has been in depression and not talking to anyone.

On Tuesday, Tejash was at home as there was no class. Gopinath went to drop his daughter at the tuition class. When he returned, he found the door locked, and there was no response. With the help of neighbours, the door was broken open, and Tejash was taken to a hospital where the doctors declared him as brought dead.

Based on a complaint, the police took up a case, and are investigating.

The incident has put the spotlight back on the loan app scams that have been on the rise in Bengaluru.

The police have warned people not to fall for easily available loans and advised them against downloading unauthorised apps, or accessing unknown links.

Any fraudulent access to bank accounts or data theft have to be reported to the police.

(Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can call arogya sahayavani on Ph: 104 for help)

Two killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 21-year-old motorcycle rider and his colleague riding pillion were killed when the bike collided with an electric pole situated on the centre median on Magadi road on Tuesday night.

The deceased Mohan Kumar, working in recycling unit and his colleague Chandru H.N., 21 were returning home from work around 11.50 p.m.

According to the police, they were not wearing helmets, and Mohan Kumar was riding in a rash manner. He lost control over the bike near the college gate bus stop and crashed into the electric pole .

Passers-by found the duo in a pool of blood and rushed them to a near-by hospital where the doctors declared them as brought dead.

The Kamakashipalya traffic police have registered a case of self accident.

IGNOU invites applications for July 2023 admission cycle

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Indira Gandhi National Open University has invited applications for admission to various courses offered by the university for the July 2023 cycle.

Shanmugam M., Assistant Regional Director of IGNOU, in a press conference in Shivamogga on Wednesday, said the university had been offering higher education programmes that include Master's degree, Bachelor's degree, and add-on PG diploma, diploma, and certificate programmes.

Interested students can join by visiting www.ignou.ac.in.

Twin protests

(Left) Congress supporters, led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, participating in a silent protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Wednesday against the disqualification of Rahul Gandhi from the Lok Sabha. This is part of a nationwide 'maun satyagraha'. (Right) BJP legislators and supporters staging a protest in front of Gandhi statue on the Vidhana Soudha premises on Wednesday over the murder of Jain monk Kamakumar Nandi Maharaj. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Heavy rainfall alert across coastal Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The India Meteorological Department said on Wednesday that thunderstorm with lightning and accompanied by gusty winds, with wind speeds reaching 30 kmph to 40 kmph, are likely to occur at isolated places over the coastal Karnataka region on Thursday.

Heavy rains ranging between 64.5mm and 115.5 mm are likely to occur at isolated places on July 14 and 15 the department said.

Squally weather with wind speeds reaching 40 kmph to 45 kmph, gusting to 55 kmph, is likely to prevail over Karnataka coast till July 15. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea.

Inflow into reservoirs dips as rain abates in catchment areas of Cauvery

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The south-west monsoon, which showed signs of gaining vigour in Kodagu last week, has slackened. Rains have abated in the Cauvery catchment area and surrounding districts during the last 24 hours.

Consequently, the inflow into reservoirs has receded. There are concerns whether the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) would attain the full level of 124.8 ft this year. This will have a direct bearing on sugarcane and paddy cultivators downstream of the dam.

Rainfall during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 a.m. on Wednesday in Kodagu was 5.8 mm. This is a sharp decline from around 83.3 mm of rainfall that the district received on July 7.

Bhagamandala experienced partial submergence owing to torrential rains last weekend. The area received around 227.6 mm of rainfall in a 24-hour period on July 7, but recorded only 5 mm of rainfall on Wednesday. The slackening is uniform across Kodagu district. The average rainfall in Madikeri taluk was 12.9 mm. It received a cumulative rainfall of 1,302.99 mm since January compared to 2,046.16 mm during the same period last year.

A file photo of KRS reservoir. The inflow has receded owing to slackening of rain in Kodagu.

Somwarpet received 1.27 mm of rainfall on Wednesday. The cumulative rainfall since January is 590.15 mm as against the 1,110.81 mm during the same period last year.

Virajpet received 3.24 mm of rainfall on Wednesday. The cumulative rainfall since January is 600.75 mm as against the 1,106.32 during the same period last year.

The rate of inflow into KRS has ebbed from a high of nearly 15,000 cusecs last week to 4,976 cusecs on Wednesday.

Though the water level increased from 82 ft on July 8 to 88.10 ft on Wednesday, any further increase will be slow due to reduced inflow. The water level on the same day last year was 122.56 ft as against the full reservoir level (FRL) of 124.8 feet. The live storage in the dam was 14.84 tmcft, or only 30% of the gross storage capacity of 45.93 tmcft.

The situation in Kabini is also not encouraging. The inflow into the reservoir at Beechanahalli in H.D. Kote has drastically reduced owing to slackening of rains in the catchment areas in neighbouring Kerala. The rate of inflow in the Kabini reservoir was 2,856 cusecs on Wednesday, and the reservoir level was 2,268.93 ft as against the FRL of 2,284 ft. The storage level during the same day last year was 2,282.51 ft.

The rate of inflow into the Hemavati reservoir was 2,843 cusecs on Wednesday and the live storage was 15.7 tmcft, which is 42% of the gross storage capacity of 37.10 tmcft. The reservoir level was 2,892.84 ft as against the FRL of 2,922 ft. Inflow into the Harangi has reduced to 945 cusecs.

The reservoir level was 2,840.17 ft as against the FRL of 2,859 ft. The live storage was 4.18 tmcft as against the gross capacity of 8.50 tmcft.

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AMAZING THAILAND - 5/9 DAYS
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UNITED KINGDOM & EUROPE 16/21 DAYS
98456 31379
Dep Date 2023: Oct 3, 17, Nov 6
BALI-7 DAYS | BHUTAN - 8 DAYS
Kintamani Volcano, Ubud Palace Taman Ayun Royal Temple, Bedugul, Tanah Lot, Pura Ulun Danu, Beraton Lake, Benoa Beach, Garuda Wishnu, Denpasar
Dep. Date : 2023: AUG 21, SEP 11, 25
Thimphu City, Phuentsholing Paro Dzong Punakha, Dzong Taktsang
Dep Date 2023: AUG 16, 30, SEP 6, 20, 27, OCT 4, 11, 25, NOV 1, 8, 15, 22
NEPAL-MUKTHINATH - 5/9 DAYS
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Kathmandu, Bhakthapur, Doleshwar Mahadev, Pokhara, Phewa Lake, Mukthinath Darshan, Manakamana Cable Car.
DEP DATES: 2023: AUG 16, 30, SEP 6, 20, 27, OCT 4, 11, 25, NOV 1, 8, 15, 22
CAMBODIA - VIETNAM 6/7/12 DAYS
CAMBODIA: Phnom Penh, Seim Rep, Thousan River, Tonle Sap, Angkor Wat World Largest Hindu Temple
VIETNAM: Hanoi, Ninh Binh, Tam coc, Halong Bay, Ho Chi Minh City, Cu Chi Tunnels, Mekong Delta
Dep Date 2023: SEP 11, 25, OCT 9, 23, Nov 6, 20, Dec 4, 18
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

France's massive insurance bill for extensive riot damage

715 in $ million. Riots broke out in France after a 17 year old with Algerian roots, was killed by a police officer on June 27. The following days France witnessed its most intense violence in two decades. AFP

The United Kingdom's additional support package to Ukraine

65 In $ million. Under the new tranche of support, which will be discussed at this week's NATO summit, the U.K. and G-7 members will provide more rounds of Challenger 2 ammunition to Ukraine. REUTERS

The Yamuna river's record water level in Delhi on Wednesday

207.71 metres. It broke its all-time record of 207.49 metres set in 1978, flooding riverside areas. Thousands of people have been shifted to safer areas. PTI

Malnourished kids identified from Jan. to March in M.P.

78,000 This include 21,631 acutely malnourished children, the State's CM said, quoting the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Child Health and Nutrition Mission. PTI

Additional water to be released from Bhakra Dam into Sutlej River

16,000 in cusecs. The rain in H.P over the last few days has increased the water level of Bhakra Dam. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Is it possible to have partial app bans?

Why is the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India trying to regulate messaging apps? Are Internet shutdowns very common in India? Why is the Indian government vary of Virtual Private Networks? Why is blocking VPNs a threat to digital privacy?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

Last week, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) sought inputs on whether it would be possible to have "selective" app bans instead of internet shutdowns, in order to reduce the impact that a wholesale communications lockdown can entail.

Does India have a history of Internet shutdowns?

Internet shutdowns are imposed in States and districts across India from time to time in order to prevent the rapid spread of provocative content during communally charged periods. The Indian government considers Internet shutdowns a legitimate tool of maintaining law and order.

Shutdowns can be prolonged, with access to education, work, banking, and information strained. As such, the government has sought to stay the course on imposing restrictions but not at the scale of a shutdown. In Jammu and Kashmir as well as in Manipur, authorities and courts have gradually loosened long-term restrictions by allowing wired internet connections and limited wireless internet access.

How would the TRAI move work?

The approach suggested by TRAI would require telecom operators and messaging app firms like WhatsApp to cooperate with each other and stop access to services during a shutdown. The telecom regulator has sought inputs on licensing messaging apps in India, which may require firms to be subjected to surveillance and blocking requirements.

Has the TRAI considered app regulation before?

In 2015 and 2018, the TRAI had held consultations on regulating messaging apps, a process that led to wide-ranging protections for net neutrality – the concept that all internet traffic should be treated equally. Telecom operators had then called for regulation because they argued that messaging apps provide the same service without going through the stringent security and surveillance regulations that telecom operators go through. Telcos were also wary of their revenues being undercut by online calls and messages, which were cheaper than calling and SMS rates then. However, from 2016 onwards, the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) and the TRAI have rejected this argument, holding that telcos cannot discriminate between categories of data used by consumers.

Since then, regulating messaging apps has become more a matter of security and policing. Seeking a deterrent against communal misinformation and provocative content spreading online, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology added a requirement of 'traceability' to the IT Rules, 2021, wherein one can find the original sender of a forwarded message. However, civil society groups and tech firms said that such requirements were impossible without breaking end-to-end encryption.

ISTOCKPHOTO

What about VPNs?

It is possible to block websites and certain apps by ordering telecom operators to do so. However, Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) make these blocks trivial to bypass. VPNs tunnel a user's internet traffic through another server. While these tools are mostly used for completely innocuous purposes, the government has been showing a growing distrust of VPNs. This is because VPNs are often encrypted, leaving the government with little visibility into what goes on in users' connections.

VPN firms usually route data through servers located in another country, and frequently cycle the IP addresses these servers use to evade detection and blocking. Some VPN firms promise that they do not maintain logs of their customers' usage. Since the government has not publicly stated what procedural safeguards it exercises when intercepting web traffic of users, these services are used by both privacy-conscious users and, the government argues, terrorists and cybercriminals. When the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) published directions in 2022 requiring VPN firms to retain records of users from India, most large VPN providers stopped offering servers physically located in India. However, these firms continued serving users in India, allowing people to connect to foreign servers through an encrypted connection and access blocked sites.

Can VPNs be blocked?

Blocking VPNs is not straightforward, as companies operating them tend to frequently change the IP addresses associated with their servers. While VPN services' websites may be blocked, the installation files can be found elsewhere online. The Manipur High Court was informed as much by telecom operators, who said that blocking VPNs was technically unfeasible.

However, Internet rights activists say that blocking VPNs would be a damaging move for online privacy. "VPNs ... help secure digital rights under the Constitution of India specially for journalists, whistle-blowers and activists," the Internet Freedom Foundation wrote in 2021. "The encrypted nature of information transfer over VPNs allows them to not only secure confidential information but also to safeguard their own identity, thus protecting them from surveillance and censorship."

THE GIST

- Last week, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) sought inputs on whether it would be possible to have "selective" app bans instead of internet shutdowns.
- Internet shutdowns are imposed in States and districts across India from time to time in order to prevent the rapid spread of provocative content during communally charged periods.
- The approach suggested by TRAI would require telecom operators and messaging app firms like WhatsApp to cooperate with each other and stop access to services during a shutdown.

What is the National Research Foundation?

How is the body going to be funded? Is the funding too less when compared to the nation's GDP? How is the NRF planning to make research and development easier?

Binay Panda

The story so far:

The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill in Parliament, placing once again the debate on science and technology funding in the spotlight.

What is the NRF?

Setting up the NRF was one of the key recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020.

The NRF intends to act as a coordinating agency between researchers, various government bodies and industry, thus bringing industry into the mainstream of research.

In addition to providing research grants to individuals, the NRF plans to seed, grow and facilitate research in India's universities, especially State universities, by funding research infrastructure and researchers.

How will it be funded?

The NRF will operate with a budget of ₹50,000 crore for five years, of which 28% (₹14,000 crore) will be the government's share, and the remaining 72% (₹36,000 crore) will come from the private sector. The NRF draft proposes the government's share to increase eventually to ₹20,000 crore per year. Out of the government's share, ₹4,000 crore will be used from the existing Science and Engineering Research Board's budget, which will be subsumed under the NRF. Therefore, the government has earmarked an additional 10,000 crore over the next five years for the NRF.

However, this increase in the nation's gross domestic expenditure on research and development (GERD) seems too meagre, (less than 2% of GERD) especially if one compares the GDP and the comparative spending in other big economies, such as the U.S. and China. As per the last available statistics (2017-18), India's GERD was ₹1,13,825 crore. While India's GDP was 7.6 and 5.1 times smaller than that of the U.S and China respectively, India's GERD was nearly 24 times less than both these countries during the same period. And in the last five years, that gap has further widened.

How can the NRF facilitate the "ease of doing science"?

First, the time between applying for a research grant and receiving the money must be minimal, preferably within six months. Although the NRF draft mentions that the peer-review process will be completed within six months, releasing funds may take time, pending financial clearance. Second, all the paperwork must be digitally processed without sending stacks of papers in hard copies to the NRF. Third, all finance-related queries, paperwork, approval, and acceptance need to be between the NRF and the finance department of the university/research institution keeping the scientist free to focus on research. Fourth, the NRF needs explicit spending guidelines away from the General Financial Rules (GFR) and the government's e-Marketplace (GeM) usage. Scientific research needs independent guidelines for spending money, which provides flexibility while making scientists accountable. Finally, the release of money needs to be timely. Although the NRF draft mentions timely disbursal of funds, a mechanism needs to be in place to facilitate and implement this.

While the participation of the private industry in the NRF is an important and welcome step, it is unclear how the government will raise ₹36,000 crore from the industry. Although the NRF describes a legislative route to facilitate this, a more detailed plan and establishing mechanisms akin to escrow accounts will reassure the scientific community.

What next?

The proposed NRF is largely modelled after the National Science Foundation of the U.S. It borrows some of the best practices from the German, U.K., Swiss, Norwegian, South Korean, and Singapore science agencies. Even if the NRF draft discusses critical thinking, creativity, and bringing innovation to the forefront, it is unclear how the NRF will transparently seed, fund and coordinate research across institutions. The success of NRF will lie in how the government sets rules and implements the same, different from what already exists.

The writer is a professor at JNU, New Delhi.

THE GIST

- The Union Cabinet has approved the introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill in Parliament.
- The NRF will operate with a budget of ₹50,000 crore for five years, of which 28% (₹14,000 crore) will be the government's share, and the remaining 72% (₹36,000 crore) will come from the private sector.
- The NRF intends to act as a coordinating agency between researchers, various government bodies and industry, thus bringing industry into the mainstream of research.

INBRIEF

Miniscule sum spent on Sagarmala project

The State has spent just about ₹39 crore under the Sagarmala project so far out of the ₹1,974 crore allocated for about 26 projects. According to Fisheries Minister Mankal Vaidya, ₹1,974 crore has been allocated for 26 projects for the development of coastal areas. So far, only one project has been started, and about ₹39 crore has been spent. "Problems of clearances with CRZ norms have led to the delay in implementation of projects. While ₹1,974 crore has been allocated, ₹424 crore has been released," he said, in response to a question from Janata Dal (Secular) member S.L. Bhoje Gowda.

Issue of Nagaland, Assam registration vehicles raised

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy told the Legislative Council on Wednesday that six persons had been arrested for registering vehicles with fake documents. He said that the action was taken based on a complaint. According to BJP member H.S. Gopinath, who raised the issue, buses with registrations in Nagaland, Assam, and other States based on fake documents, were being registered in the name of educational institutions in Karnataka after changing the chassis numbers. RTOs in Bengaluru and Kolar were used for the purpose. He said that more than 200 buses had been registered using such a *modus operandi* in the last over two years.

Signing long-term PPAs with pvt. firms main reason for power tariff hike: HDK

Reducing consumption-based slabs in the bill has taken away concessions granted to poor people, says former Chief Minister

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy on Wednesday alleged that the signing of costly power purchase agreements (PPAs) with private firms for a long-term period was the main reason for the power tariff going up sharply in Karnataka.

Speaking in the Assembly on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to the joint session of the State legislature, the former Chief Minister maintained that various political dispensations had failed to empower the State-owned Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd. to increase power generation through new projects, though the KPCL's power was economical.

Instead, they had favoured costly power from private power generators and signed long-term PPAs with them. In fact, Karnataka had signed agreements with private companies for buying 17,090 million units of power annually, he said.

Blaming government: JD(S) member H.D. Kumaraswamy making a point in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Giving a comparative picture, he said the hydel power being generated by the KPCL was available at an average price of ₹1.30 a unit. The thermal power from the KPCL was available at ₹5.80 a unit and the power from Central generating stations was available at ₹4.75 a unit. In contrast, power being purchased from Udupi Power Corporation Ltd. was available at ₹9.83 a unit, he said, citing an example.

Solar power too

Similarly, Escoms had entered into long-term and costly power purchase agreements with solar power-producing companies, he alleged, while wondering how one could enter into long-term power purchase agreements spread over 25 years when the cost was too high.

Recalling that he had raised the issue in the Assembly in 2017, Mr. Kumaraswamy said more truth would come out if the government asked the CBI to probe the issue.

He argued the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission had this year granted a hike of 8.31% as against 16.83% sought by Escoms. This had translated into a hike of 70 paise per unit as against ₹1.39 sought by Escoms.

However, the actual increase in absolute terms for consumers was 36% due to reduction in slabs, he alleged. Citing an example, he said for a consumer with consumption of 101 units, the power bill should have been ₹692 as against the earlier ₹639 if 8.31% was considered. However, the bill amount now would be ₹941, which is an increase of 36%.

He said reducing the consumption-based tariff slabs in the electricity bill had resulted in taking away the benefits granted to the poor and the lower middle class in terms of consumption as they had now been merged with rich people in terms of tariff.

Kumaraswamy displays 'transfer rate card' of a dept. in House

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The JD(S) leader has been alleging that there is a 'transfer racket' of officials in the new dispensation

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy, who has been alleging that there is a "transfer racket" of officials in the new dispensation, on Wednesday, displayed a sheet of paper in the Assembly that he claimed mentions different "rates" for transfers of officials in a particular department.

Without naming the department or the Minister, Mr. Kumaraswamy alleged, "This is the rate card in a department being prescribed by a Minister for transfer to new posts as well as retaining the existing posts." He said he would send the note to Speaker U.T. Khader and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah if they ask for it.

Mr. Kumaraswamy remarked that people had started talking about the alleged cash-for-transfer racket in the new government within one-and-a-half months of the change of guard.

He also wondered why the Congress that had given media advertisement on the alleged transfer racket during the erstwhile BJP government has desisted from ordering a probe now.

"People have voted you to power hoping for a positive change in administration. If you don't change your style, then people will change you," he remarked.

Siddaramaiah will complete full term as CM, says Rayaraddi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The issue of whether Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete the full term of five years, which was hitherto being discussed at the Congress fora, made an entry into the State legislature on Wednesday with Congress member Basavaraj Rayaraddi declaring in the House that the Congress government would complete the full term of five years with Mr. Siddaramaiah at the helm.

However, the Opposition BJP members remarked in a lighter vein if it means that Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar would not become Chief Minister during this term.

Responding to this, Mr. Rayaraddi was quick to say, "I dont have any objection if Mr. Shivakumar becomes Chief Minister. Let the party take a call."

Mr. Rayaraddi also took exception to the Governor's written address to the joint session of the State legislature, addressing leaders of the Opposition in the Assembly and the Council, though the Opposition BJP is yet to appoint them. He demanded that such a reference should be withdrawn from the written speech.

Of 'adjustment politics' and race for LoP post

Heated discussion: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and BJP member Basanagouda Patil Yatnal in the Legislative Assembly in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said he had not indulged in "adjustment politics" since he was elected to the Legislative Assembly in 1983 and that he would quit politics if the charge was proved.

He made the statement in the Legislative Assembly when senior BJP member Basanagouda Patil Yatnal claimed there was "adjustment politics" in the Congress.

The issue cropped up during the debate on the motion of thanks to the Governor's address to both Houses of the legislature when the talk veered towards the BJP not yet having a Leader of the Opposition.

'You will not be LoP'

When Mr. Yatnal stood up to say that the Congress had failed to implement its manifesto and its guarantees, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, "You, don't stand up again and again to talk. You will not become LoP as per my information." This was the context of political grapevine about Mr. Yatnal also being in the race for the LoP post.

Irked by the Chief Minister's statement, Mr. Yatnal said, "This is also adjustment politics," apparently indicating that Mr. Siddaramaiah was favouring the former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai becoming the LoP rather than him.

'Not my politics'

Mr. Siddaramaiah retorted, "Adjustment politics is not my politics... I came to the House along with R.V. Deshpande, B.S. Yediyurappa, and B.R. Patil in 1983."

BJP leaders Pratap Simha and C.T. Ravi have in the past made statements that "adjustment politics" had caused the BJP's rout in the recent Assembly elections.

Govt. considering increasing incentive for milk producers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Currently, the govt. pays ₹5 as incentive for a litre of milk procured from producers

A day after indicating that the retail price of Nandini milk would be revised to help milk producers who are in distress, Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh on Wednesday said the government was also considering increasing the financial incentive given to milk producers.

"We have promised to increase the incentive in our manifesto and will consider hiking the sum next month," Mr. Venkatesh told the Legislative Council in response to a question by BJP member N. Ravikumar. The government pays ₹5 per litre of milk procured from producers currently, and the Congress in its manifesto had promised to hike the incentive in the light of milk producers being in distress. On Tuesday, the Minister said a proposal to increase the retail price of Nandini milk is before the government and 70% of the hiked price was being proposed to be passed on to farmers.

When Mr. Ravikumar drew his attention to reduction in the procurement price by Bengaluru Milk Union by ₹1.50 per litre, the Minister said, "Bamul had increased procurement price by ₹3 per litre during summer months to encourage farmers to bring milk to societies. Though they wanted to withdraw the entire ₹3 per litre, we have told them to reduce by ₹1.50 per litre."

State govt. announces support price of ₹1,250 for a quintal of copra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has announced a support price of ₹1,250 for a quintal of copra, in addition to the Central government's minimum support price (MSP) of ₹11,750 a quintal.

The government announced the support price following a demand by several legislators and the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS) to increase the procurement price above the MSP fixed by the Centre.

Earlier this week, KRRS leader Badagalpura Nagendra said coconut farmers in 15 districts of Karnataka were in distress in view of the collapse in the price of copra. While the price of copra in the open market in 2022 was ₹19,000 a quintal, it has fallen to ₹7,500 this year. As per the State government's calculations, the cost of cultivation is ₹16,760 a quintal. But, the Centre had announced an MSP of just ₹11,750.

According to the Horticulture Department, Karnataka produces 22.06 lakh tonnes of coconut and copra. Farmers are tending to coconut trees on 6.43 lakh hectares in Tumakuru, Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Chitradurga, Mandya, Mysuru, and Dakshina Kannada districts.

Coconut farmers in 15 districts are in distress in view of the fall in the price of copra. FILE PHOTO

Procurement till July 27

In a statement in the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, Minister for Textiles, Sugar and APMC Shivanand S. Patil said 37,632 farmers had registered for selling their produce at MSP. A total of 31,641 farmers had availed of the benefit as on Tuesday. Through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation, the Karnataka State Cooperative Marketing Federation procured 54,038 tonnes of copra. Procurement would continue till July 27.

The Minister said copra price was ranging from ₹7,700 to ₹8,020 a quintal in the local markets in Karnataka. The State government would write to the Centre seeking extension of the procurement date.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

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Bid Documents available: **13.07.2023, 4:00 pm to 27.07.2023, 4:00 pm**. Last Date for Bid Submission: **27.07.2023 upto 4:00 pm**. Opening of bid documentation on or after: **29.07.2023 at 5:00pm.**
The Tenders can be obtained through e-Procurement by visiting tendering website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Any clarifications about e-payment contact e-procurement help desk 080-23010900/22340948, or e-mail to **hphelpdesk.blr@rteservices.com** for any issue.
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Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for receipt of tender	Date & time for opening of tender
1	East-1	BWSSB/EE(East)-1/PB/1058/2023-24 Date: 05.07.2023 (4th Call)	Rs. 5,57,265.21 / Rs. 13,950/-	24.07.2023 up to 4.00 pm	26.07.2023 after 5.00 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (East)-1		
2	SE-2	BWSSB/EE(SE-2)/TO/PB/662/2023-24 Date: 10.07.2023 (2nd Call)	Rs.15,42,072/- / Rs. 38,552/-	27.07.2023 up to 4.00 pm	28.07.2023 after 4.30 pm
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (SE-2)		

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009

3	DE&PS	BWSSB/EDEPSTE/AE/229/2023-24 Date: 11.07.2023 (4th Call)	Rs. 52,76,214/- / Rs. 1,05,524/-	20.07.2023 up to 11.00 am	21.07.2023 at 11.30 am
			Sd/- Executive Engineer (DE & PS)		

The details regarding participation in the tendering process and tender can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/520/AKAR/2023-24

BIBLIOGRAPHY

K-rush: K-Pop fans at an event organised by the consulate general of the Republic of Korea in Chennai in 2020. FILE PHOTO

K-literature: translators ensure books too are accessible for all across the world

Along with K-pop, K-beauty and K-dramas, readers are discovering diverse, realistic, engaging, and even absurdist stories from South Korea mirroring changing times and social mores. A significant number of these stories have been written by women authors

S. Poorvaja

Reminiscent of the frenzy around the release of the Harry Potter books, on July 9, Bookworm Bookstore at Church Street in Bengaluru opened its store at 6 a.m. It wanted to be ready for the legion of fans of BTS, global music superstars from South Korea, who were expected to troop in to buy a copy of *Beyond the Story: 10-year Record of BTS*, chronicling the group's journey through the years. The book, written by Myeongseok Kang, and members of BTS, RM, Jin, Suga, J-Hope, Jimin, V and Jung Kook, hit bookshelves around the world on another special anniversary – July 9 marks the 10-year founding anniversary of the group's fans, simply called the ARMY.

Keeping fans across the world in mind, it has been translated into English by a team comprising Anton Hur, who was shortlisted for the 2022 International Booker Prize as a translator for Bora Chung's collection of absurdist short stories *Cursed Bunny*, *Slin Jung*, and Clare Richards.

Hallyu Wave

Over the last three years, the resurgence of the Hallyu Wave which began in the early 1990s has led to a global rise in the popularity of South Korean popular culture which includes K-pop, K-dramas and even K-beauty.

South Korean literature too is being celebrated for its exploration of diverse themes, painting a realistic portrait of the country's societal fabric, and holding a mirror to its many achievements and imperfections. Translations in English have made books more accessible and they have been lapped up by readers all over the world, besides bagging prestigious accolades.

2023 is already turning out to be a significant year for Korean literature. South Korean novelist Cheon Myeong-kwan's *Whale*, a book published in 2004 was translated into English by Chi-young Kim, and was shortlisted for the prestigious International Booker Prize. Described by The Booker Prize as "an adventure satire of epic proportions," the sprawling tale follows the lives of three linked characters from a remote village. The Booker Prize's book of the month for July is notably a celebrated and disturbing work of prose – Han Kang's *The Vegetarian*, translated into English by Deborah Smith. "Her life was no more than a ghostly pageant of exhausted endurance, no more real than a television drama," writes Kang of her protagonist, in the book, which won The Man Booker International Prize 2016.

If *The Vegetarian* trails its focus on Yeong-Hye and how society views her decision to give up meat as an unsettling act of subversion, another book whose female protagonist unsettled not just readers, but sections of the public in South Korea was Kim Ji-Young from Cho Nam-Joo's critically acclaimed feminist book *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*. The bestseller sparked much discussion and debate surrounding the themes of everyday sexism, patriarchy and misogyny.

Early in the book, Jiyoung narrates how her mother cried and asked for forgiveness from her mother-in-law, when she gave birth to two daughters. "Jiyoung grew up being told to be cautious, to dress conservatively, to be 'ladylike'. That it's your job to avoid dangerous places, times of day and people. It's your fault for not noticing and not avoiding," Nam-Joo writes, about her central character's experiences as an adolescent. Translated by Jamie Chang, there's a simmering anger that steadily grows with each stage of Jiyoung's life, beginning from when she was a child, to her adolescence, early adulthood, and marriage.

Women agents of change

Kyung-Sook Shin's *Please Look After Mother*, translated by Chi-young Kim, is yet another powerful book that examines how the dynamics of a family unravels when an elderly family member goes missing. Kyung-Sook won the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2011 for the novel.

It is imperative here to note how a significant number of these books that have done well have been written by women authors, and have dealt with gender, patriarchy, sexism, discrimination and several other themes which have resonated with readers across the world.

In Frances Cha's contemporary novel *If I had Your Face*, which is written in English, four women bear the brunt of unreasonably high beauty standards, rocky relationships, economic burdens, and an overarching class divide. "I would live your life so much better than you, If I had your face," muses Kyuri, one among the four protagonists, when she catches sight of a celebrity at a clinic, whose facial features she wants to surgically get.

Exploring South Korea's rapidly mushrooming beauty Industry, Elise Hu, in her new non-fiction book, also written in English, *Flawless: Lessons in Looks and Culture from the K-Beauty Capital*, says, "Ultimately, it's not just Korean women but all of us who must wrestle with a system that sells us on this notion that we are insufficient and that consumption can cure it."

While their book might have just been released, BTS has in more ways than one, turned the spotlight on several contemporary books from South Korea over the last few years.

"Books took me to places I could never go otherwise. They shared the confessions of people I'd never met and lives I'd never witnessed. The emotions I could never feel, and the events I hadn't experienced could all be found in those volumes," says Yunjae, the protagonist in Won-pyung Sohn's *Almond*, translated into English by Joosun Lee.

Interest in the poignant, young adult novel significantly increased after BTS members RM and Suga were spotted reading it. Bookstores across the world have dedicated sections where recommendations of RM, a voracious reader, are stacked. Recently, fans were delighted when Jung Kook was spotted reading *Crying in H Mart*, the bestselling, moving memoir by Korean-American musician Michelle Zauner, written in English.

With interest in South Korea's pop culture showing no signs of waning, it is only expected that literature from the country too will continue to have a growing number of readers.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. P. Meghanathan wants to know the meaning of 'ivory-tower'."

"When you say that someone is living in an ivory tower, you mean they lead a sheltered existence removed from the harsh realities of life. Some feel that university teachers must get out of their ivory towers."

"Sir, Mr. Aftab Hussain Kola wants to know whether it is correct to say 'thee best'."

"The general rule is that the 'e' in the word 'the' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China' when 'the' is followed by a word beginning with a consonant; 'e' in 'the' is pronounced 'i' in 'fit' when 'the' is followed by a word beginning with a vowel. The book, thi engine. However, when you emphasise something, you say 'thee' even when a word with a consonant follows 'the'. He is thee best man. This is thee theatre."

"Ms. Rita Rani wants to know how to use 'nuisance'."

"'Nuisance' means 'thing, person, act, etc. that causes trouble or offence.'

He is a nuisance. He keeps on interrupting when others speak.

He doesn't like visitors. He considers them a nuisance.

I am sorry to have made a nuisance of myself.

'Commit no nuisance here' means (a) 'don't urinate here' (b) 'don't throw rubbish here.' 'Nuisance ground' in Canadian English is rubbish heap. 'Nuisance value' is 'value or importance of a person or thing arising from his capacity to be a nuisance.'

He has a nuisance value.

The candidate is not powerful but has a nuisance value."

"Sir, Mr. A. C. Majumbar, Patna, wants to know the difference between 'complement' and 'supplement'."

" 'To complement' is to make complete. A complement is what is added to complete something.

They are a fine couple; they complement each other.

In grammar, a complement is a word or phrase which makes the predicate complete. In the sentence 'He is angry', 'angry' is a complement as without it the sentence will be incomplete. Please note that complement is spelt with two e's. This word is different from compliment. 'Compliment' means 'an expression of praise, admiration or respect'.

He showered her with compliments on her fine speech.

'Complimentary' means 'given free, out of courtesy or kindness'.

I was given two complimentary tickets.

You can distinguish the two words if you remember that that which completes is a 'complement'; the other word is 'compliment'.

'To supplement' is 'to add something to improve'. A supplement is generally an additional thing.

He is a teacher. He is working as an accountant in the evenings to supplement his income.

He supplements his diet with some vitamins.

The separate addition to a newspaper or periodical is also called a supplement. Supplement suggests an addition to something that is already complete."

Published in The Hindu on August 16, 1988

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

As the election season – presidential primaries in particular – draws near in the U.S, here is a quiz on some candidates who did not make it to the presidency but left a mark

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

One of the key reasons behind the adoption of seat belts in cars was the publication of this book, *Unsafe at any Speed* by a then-consumer advocate and lawyer who later on became a major presidential candidate in the 1990s and the 2000s. Name him.

QUESTION 2

A joint Nobel Peace Prize awardee, this presidential candidate lost the elections despite winning the popular vote. Name him.

QUESTION 3

As a student at the University of Chicago, he was a key activist leading the Congress of Racial Equity, a civil rights organisation. Later, he became the mayor of Burlington city in the early 1980s and years afterward, an independent senator, a post that he still holds today after multiple re-elections. Name him.

QUESTION 4

The answer to question 3, has been a huge admirer of this person, who was a major labour activist and Socialist Party leader who contested in the presidential elections five times, the last in 1920 from prison, after being convicted for sedition, due to his opposition to U.S. participation in World War I. Name him.

QUESTION 5

A staunch opponent of the U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war, this politician is still seen as the embodiment of modern American liberalism. He was a major activist in the fight against hunger and the first director of the Food for Peace program of the U.S. Name him.

Visual question:
This person who won 18.91% of the popular vote in 1992, the highest for any third party candidate since 1912.
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: The reason why July 12 was chosen as Malala Day. **Ans: July 12 is Malala's birthday. It is also the day she spoke to the UN in 2013**
2. The many records Malala set by winning the Nobel Prize in 2014. **Ans: She is the world's youngest Nobel Prize laureate, the second Pakistani and the first Pashtun to receive a Nobel Prize**
3. The organisation that Malala founded with this activist. **Ans: Malala Fund; Shiza Shahid**
4. Malala shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with this person. **Ans: Kailash Satyarthi**
5. Malala was nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize of the KidsRights Foundation by this person. **Ans: Archbishop Desmond Tutu**
Visual: The significance of this shawl. **Ans: This is the shawl that Malala Yousufzai wore while delivering her speech at the UN. It's displayed at the Nobel Prize Museum.**
Early Birds: Manasi Roy| M. Suresh Kumar| Ashraf Basha| Kamuju Phanindar

Word of the day

Aleatory:
dependent on chance

Synonym: unpredictable

Usage: *Gambling is a purely aleatory hobby.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/aleatorypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈeɪ.lɪ.ə.tə.ɹi/, /ˈæ.lɪ.ə.tə.ɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Can hear A.P.'s petition in three capitals case only in December: SC

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

The Supreme Court has once again turned down the Andhra Pradesh government's plea for an expeditious hearing of the Special Leave Petition filed against the High Court order dated March 3, 2022, in the three capitals case.

On Tuesday, a Division Bench had said that a hearing of the SLP would be possible only in December and observed that the case required a lot of time for hearing, and they were busy with several important constitutional matters.

Through the SLP, the State government had challenged the impugned order of the High Court, which ruled that the State had no legislative competence to decide on the issue, and it should develop Amaravati as the capital in a time-bound manner.

While insisting that the A.P. Decentralisation and Inclusive Development of All Regions Act and the CRDA Repeal Act were intended to facilitate balanced growth of North Andhra, Rayalaseema, and central and southern coastal districts, the State also brought into picture the doctrine of separation of powers in its bid to justify its actions.

Meanwhile, farmers who had given their lands for construction of the capital city vowed to intensify their agitation against the proposed shifting of the capital out of Amaravati.

SC to strive for 'enduring solution' to human-stray dog conflicts

Bench was hearing a plea by the Kannur panchayat to euthanise 'suspected rabid' and 'extremely dangerous' stray dogs; animal rights activists say the issue is a delicate one and required to be examined legally, court to hear case on August 16

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear different views to find a durable and humane solution to human-stray dog conflicts, especially in Kerala.

A Bench of Justices J.K. Maheshwari and K.V. Viswanathan was hearing a plea by the Kannur district panchayat, represented by senior advocate P.V. Surendranath and advocate Subhash Chandran, to euthanise "suspected rabid" and "extremely dangerous" stray dogs. Animal rights activists said the issue was a delicate one and required to be examined legally. They claimed animal birth control rules were not strictly implemented by the local authorities.

Humane action: Activists claim that birth control rules were not strictly implemented by the local authorities. FILE PHOTO

People should not be allowed to treat stray dogs cruelly by branding them "rabid" or "dangerous". They said there had been instances of stray dogs hanged, poisoned or thrown into rivers. This should not be allowed.

Mr. Surendranath and Mr. Chandran, however, recounted the case of a 11-year-old who was mauled to death by stray dogs in Kerala. They said the danger was real and present, and need to be addressed.

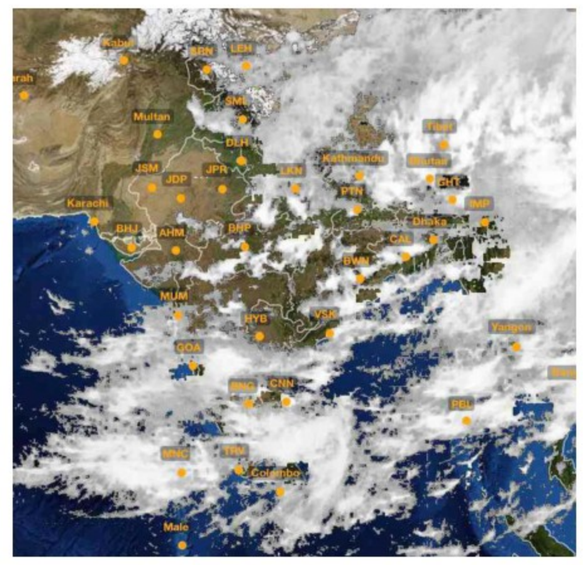
Advocate Jaimon Andrews, appearing for the Kerala State Commission for Protection of Child Rights, said children were also victims to stray dog attacks. The Bench agreed to hear the case on August 16, saying an "enduring solution" needed to be found to the issue.

The panchayat had submitted that 5,794 cases of stray dog attacks were reported in 2019, 3,951 cases in 2020, 7,927 cases in 2021, 11,776 cases were reported in 2022 and 6,276 cases up to June 2023 in Kannur itself.

It said the issue had continued despite "every effort to control stray dogs' issue within the local limits".

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, coastal Karnataka and Kerala. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over West Bengal, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.8	27.1	Kozhikode	3	33.1	25.5
Ahmedabad	—	32.4	27.8	Kurnool	—	35.6	27.4
Aizawl	—	31.7	22.1	Lucknow	11	34.0	26.1
Allahabad	1.4	36.3	27.6	Madurai	—	36.2	24.6
Bengaluru	15	28.2	20.3	Mangaluru	16	27.6	23.8
Bhopal	—	—	—	Mumbai	—	30.6	27.6
Bhubaneswar	—	34.4	26.0	Mysuru	—	32.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	32.9	26.4	New Delhi	—	33.5	26.6
Chennai	—	34.2	26.8	Patna	—	36.0	25.6
Coimbatore	—	33.9	23.2	Port Blair	2	31.3	25.4
Dehradun	17	26.2	23.0	Puducherry	—	33.0	25.2
Gangtok	6	20.3	19.2	Pune	0.2	30.8	23.3
Goa	0.8	31.5	25.0	Raipur	—	32.5	25.4
Guwahati	—	32.0	26.6	Ranchi	2	31.0	24.0
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	31	22.0	18.1
Hyderabad	14	28.5	21.9	Shimla	13	22.2	16.4
Imphal	—	28.5	22.2	Srinagar	—	31.2	16.8
Jaipur	—	34.8	27.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.3	25.0
Kochi	6	30.8	25.0	Tiruchi	9	36.4	24.6
Kohima	2	23.8	18.4	Vijayawada	—	30.8	26.6
Kolkata	—	35.5	27.5	Visakhapatnam	2	35.0	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	8	.35	99	92	
Bengaluru	5	.26	.75	31	88	
Chennai	4	.72	.65	80	69	
Delhi	.23	.99	118	54	115	
Hyderabad	.12	.42	.39	65	89	
Kolkata	.19	.12	.20	14	44	
Lucknow	5	.18	.60	30	36	
Mumbai	—	.82	103	38	48	
Pune	131	220	111	70	63	
Visakhapatnam	.16	.41	.15	39	66	

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 286 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Efforts on to upgrade sub-registrar offices across Karnataka: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sub-registrar's offices, many of which are in a dismal state, will be upgraded with better facilities.

"We have taken a decision to improve facilities at sub-registrar's offices across the State. Expecting that they will be made to look similar to passport offices may be too much, but we will try to make them closest to a passport office," Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda told the Legislative Council on Wednesday.

While the sub-registrar's offices will be upgraded, he also said that the State government would come out with a policy to rotate sub-registrars between offices. He said transfers had already been effected with eight sub-registrars serving in Bengaluru having been transferred and seven sub-registrars serving in faraway places such as Yadgir having been brought to Bengaluru. "We have made efforts to eliminate the syndicate from being formed. Some of them have gone to KAT against the transfers."

Responding to BJP member P. Muniraju Gowda, who wanted a scientific way for increasing guidance value, the Minister said that it was a challenge to make it completely scientific, but we would plug loopholes.

"The guidance value was last revised four-and-a-half years ago. The huge gap between market value and guidance value is leading to creation of black wealth as properties are being registered at guidance value and rest of the transaction was being done via cash," he said.

UCC may have a 'disastrous effect' on secular ethos: DMK

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The DMK has strongly opposed the proposal to enact a Uniform Civil Code (UCC) by the Union government. It said such a code was an antithesis to the right to freedom of practising and propagating one's religion, under Article 25 of the Constitution and the rights given to the minorities under Article 29.

In a letter to the chairperson and members of the 22nd Law Commission, DMK general secretary Duraimurugan said the UCC would nullify the personal laws of each religion in matters like religion, adoption and succession.

He contended that the UCC would have ramifications for the rights of citizens of all denominations and a "potentially disastrous effect" on the secular ethos, law and order, peace and tranquillity in the State. It would intrude into the legislative powers conferred on the States under the Constitution.

Turning tide

Regaining livelihood: Fishermen back in action with the weather improving after nearly 10 days of continuous rain. A fishing harbour near Kochi saw toned-down activities as weather warnings kept even traditional fishermen away from the sea. H. VIBHU

Kerala to verify if compassionate scheme appointees help dependents

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

State plans to deduct 25% of annual salary of the employees who fail to provide for other dependents

The Kerala Cabinet has decided to verify whether those who gained government jobs through State's compassionate employment of the dependents of government servants who die in harness, meet their sworn commitment to provide for other survivors of the deceased official.

The government will deduct 25% of the annual salary of the employees who fail to provide for other fellow dependents in the family who are eligible for dying in harness protection.

The Cabinet tasked appointing authorities to monitor the situation and take necessary action. Dependents who fail to get assistance from the employee can inform the appointment authorities for redressal. The compassionate employment scheme envisages the provision of food, medical expenses, living quarters, property and maintenance.

Appointing authorities who receive complaints from dependents should ask the tahsildar concerned to investigate the petition and report to the government immediately.

Thus penalised employees can appeal their case to the District Collector within three months of the penalty.

Building tax

The State Cabinet has decided to amend the 50-year-old Kerala Building Tax Act, 1973. It found that thousands of buildings, both domicile and commercial, remained outside the tax net due to flawed assessments of levies.

So far, the square feet area of the building determined the one-time tax. The new law seeks to change it, given the colossal building tax revenue loss incurred annually by the government. The amendment is to expedite tax collection and make the process transparent.

The Cabinet also approved the Advocate-General's proposal to amend Section 29 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973.

The Cr.PC only allowed magistrates to fine a maximum of ₹10,000 for traffic offences. The Cr.PC amendment will remove that ceiling and vest them with the authority to slap higher fines.

From Page One

Human milk bank to start next week

The 'Amruthdhare Human Milk Bank' at Vani Vilas, which has been functioning since March 8 last year, has collected nearly 200 litres of human breast milk and has supported over 1,000 babies so far. Hospital Medical Superintendent Savitha C. said the hospital's NICU was free of formula feed for two consecutive months since January this year. "However, we have been using formula feed sometimes in the last two-three months, depending on the situation. While there is an increase in demand, our collection has slowed down a bit due to storage issues, as the deep freezer of the milk bank needed servicing. It has been repaired now and we are also procuring an additional freezer," she said.

A doctor from HIMS said nearly 10 litres of milk has been collected, and over 100 babies have been supported since March this year when the bank was inaugurated.. The hospital has a 52-bed NICU.

The State Health Department is working on starting four human milk banks in the four revenue divisions - Bengaluru, Belagavi, Kalaburgi, and Mysuru. State Deputy Director (Child Health) Basavaraj Dabadi said the hospitals for these milk banks are being identified.

Senthilbalaji postponed heart surgery from June 18 to 21 to cooperate with ED, counsel tells Madras High Court

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The arrested Minister, V. Senthilbalaji, was scheduled to undergo a beating heart coronary artery bypass surgery at Kauvery Hospital in Chennai on June 18. However, he requested the doctors to postpone it to June 21 in order to cooperate with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) which had obtained permission for his custodial interrogation at the hospital, senior counsel N.R. Elango claimed before the Madras High Court on Wednesday.

This submission was made before Justice C.V. Karthikeyan, the third judge hearing a *habeas corpus* petition filed by the Minister's wife Megala following a split verdict by two judges of a Division Bench on July 4. It led to a bustle in the court hall with Solicitor- General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor-General AR.L. Sundaresan vehemently opposing the claim and contending that there was no material to prove such a claim being made now.

The claim regarding postponement of surgery gained significance in the light of the argument advanced by senior counsel Kapil Sibal, representing the *habeas corpus* petitioner, that the Principal Sessions Court in Chennai had permitted the ED to subject the Minister to custodial interrogation at the private hospital for eight days from June 17 to 24, but the investigating officer failed to take custody and therefore such custody could not be sought again.

Answering the argument, the Solicitor-General told the court that the ED had actually obtained permission for custodial interrogation from the sessions judge on June 16 and wrote to the doctors of the private hospital immediately, wanting to know if they could interrogate the Minister. The doctors replied on June 17 that the interrogation could be carried out only under medical supervision and that it would have to be stopped in case of an emergency.

Nilgiri tahr that attacked two forest watchers in Idukki likely to be translocated

The Hindu Bureau
IDUKKI

The animal will be shifted to the Eravikulam National Park if the proposal is approved

The Forest Department is planning to capture and translocate a Nilgiri tahr that attacked two forest watchers at the Palappetty Kudi tribal settlement, near Marayur, in Idukki on Monday and Tuesday. It will be shifted to the Eravikulam National Park.

Munnar Wildlife Warden S.V. Vinod told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that a proposal in this regard would be submitted to the Chief Wildlife Warden.

"Two Forest Department watchers will be deployed to the tribal settlement to prevent further attack by the tahr till its translocation," he said.

According to Forest department officials, the male tahr reached the settlement from Munnar.

Forest watchers Krishnan and Sasi were injured after they were attacked by the animal on Monday and Tuesday respectively. According to local people, the animal attacked three tribal women at the settlement two months ago.

A team led by Marayur Divisional Forest Officer M.G. Vinod Kumar, Mr. S.V. Vinod, and Kanthalloor panchayat president P.T. Mohandas visited the settlement on Wednesday.

Eravikulam National Park assistant wildlife warden Job J. Neriamparampil said that July and August were the mating season of Nilgiri tahr.

"In these months, the hormone level in the animals is very high and it is suspected that the absence of a female companion for mating has resulted in the animal turning violent and attacking people," he said.

The Eravikulam Park is the natural habitat of Nilgiri tahrs. They have never attacked people inside the park, the official said.

Weakening autonomy

Piecemeal extensions to ED, CBI heads are a setback to their independence

The Supreme Court's verdict upholding statutory amendments made in 2021 to allow multiple extensions of service to heads of investigative agencies is a setback to the cause of protecting their institutional independence. While the part of the judgment quashing the two one-year extensions given to the Director of Enforcement, S.K. Mishra, may be welcomed, the rest of it is a free pass to the government to undermine the autonomy of these agencies. The Court has asked Mr. Mishra to step down on July 31. In 2021, it had directed the government not to grant any extension to him beyond November that year. It has now ruled that even though Parliament can remove the basis for any judgment through legislation, it cannot nullify a court direction. Mr. Mishra was appointed for a two-year term in 2018, but in 2020, the original appointment was retrospectively amended to make it a three-year tenure. He was given two annual extensions in 2021 and 2022, despite crossing the age of superannuation. The government ignored the Court's earlier observation that such extension should be given to those who have attained superannuation only in "rare and exceptional cases". However, the larger import of the latest judgment is that it endorses the changes enabling annual extensions to the CBI and ED Directors until they complete five years in that office.

The heads of the CBI and ED have an assured term of two years regardless of superannuation, and the introduction of a power to extend it to five years means an officer may get up to three annual extensions. As the petitioners who challenged the extension given to Mr. Mishra, as well as the Court-appointed *amicus curiae*, argued, piecemeal extensions undermine the independence of the office, and encourage a carrot-and-stick policy to make Directors toe the government's line. The Court has rejected, without much justification, their contention that the 2021 changes to the Central Vigilance Commission Act, the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act and the Fundamental Rules go against the spirit of earlier judgments that mandated fixed tenures to the CBI and ED heads only to insulate them from extraneous pressures. The finding that the amendments do not violate any fundamental rights is quite surprising, as allowing the government to have Directors who can pick and choose what cases to investigate based on political instructions certainly offends the rights of citizens to equal treatment and impartial investigation. At a time when there is a cloud of suspicion over the misuse of government agencies against political opponents, the Court's endorsement of a tenure extension system designed to undermine their independence is not conducive to the rule of law.

Migrant crisis

The Netherlands must focus on its economic challenges to stop far right

The collapse of the Dutch government of Prime Minister Mark Rutte highlights how the issue of immigration has become a critical dynamic of European politics. Mr. Rutte, in power for 13 years, resigned after failing to win the support of his coalition partners for a proposed refugee policy. According to reports, it had two tiers – a temporary one for those fleeing conflicts and a permanent one for those fleeing persecution – and a two-year waiting period for children of recognised refugees living in the Netherlands to join their parents. The coalition partners of Mr. Rutte's centre-right People's Party for Freedom and Democracy supported the two-tier system but opposed the two-year waiting period. Mr. Rutte, who decided to step down (and quit politics) rather than offer them a compromise, was known as "Teflon Mark" for his survival skills. With a domineering presence in politics, he turned the Netherlands, an affluent northern European country of 17.5 million, into a major voice in the continent. But controversies soon began to shadow his administration, denting his popularity. Tax authorities going after poor families over childcare benefits caused public ire while farmers were upset with his push to reduce emissions. The refugee policy was the last straw.

Like most of Europe, the Netherlands has seen an influx of migrants. In 2022, over 21,000 people from outside the EU sought asylum, while the overall migration figure for the year stood at 4,00,000. Immigration has strained housing capacity in the Netherlands at a time when the continent has been struggling with a cost of living crisis, and worsened by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and western sanctions on Moscow. In several European countries, far-right and conservative parties with tough anti-immigrant policies have been making political gains. In France, Marine Le Pen finished a close second to Emmanuel Macron in the presidential election in 2022. In Italy, a party with neo-fascist origins is in power. In Greece, the conservative government of Kyriakos Mitsotakis has adopted brutal anti-migrant policies where immigrants are sent back to Turkey. Mr. Rutte was trying to ride this wave of anti-immigrant politics with his refugee policies. But a political programme that focused only on immigrants would only deepen the social cleavages of the Netherlands. The country's political class, and Europe in general, should come up with a proper migration architecture to regulate asylum seekers. But they should also focus on easing the cost of living and housing crises and address widening inequality and other economic challenges, which are helping the far-right to blame the immigrants for the economic problems the country is facing.

Loot, intransigence, and the darkening of a colonial blot

Shashi Tharoor

is third-term Lok Sabha Member of Parliament (Congress) from Thiruvananthapuram, and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 'An Era of Darkness' and of 'The Battle of Belonging'. His most recent book is 'Ambedkar: A Life'

The recent news that the Netherlands will return 484 valuable artefacts it looted from Indonesia and Sri Lanka during the colonial period – it includes the fabled "Lombok treasure" of precious stones, gold and silver jewellery to Indonesia and the exquisitely-decorated bronze-and-gilt cannon of Kandy to Sri Lanka – once again puts the focus on an issue that will not go away. Should colonial countries continue to hold on to cultural artefacts and precious objects that were stolen during the period of imperial domination, or acknowledge their misappropriation and return them to their original homelands?

The British have stubbornly refused for decades to return the so-called Elgin Marbles, a collection of classical Greek marble sculptures purloined by Lord Elgin from the Parthenon temple in Athens, or the Rosetta Stone taken from Egypt in 1802. But they had shown more generosity in repatriating some of the Benin Bronzes (looted by British forces in 1897) to Nigeria. Yet, when it comes to their extensive treasure trove of Indian artefacts, from the Kohinoor diamond to the sculptures from the Amaravati stupa, they dig in their heels, fearful of starting a haemorrhage that, in the words of former Prime Minister David Cameron, would soon leave the British Museum empty.

We cannot blame the British for everything that is wrong in our country today; nor should we see the return of such looted items as a panacea to cure all the ills and wrongs of colonialism. One can even accept that there is a statute of limitations on colonial wrongdoings, but there is none on human memory, especially living memory, for as I have pointed out in my book, *An Era of Darkness*, there are still millions of Indians alive today who remember the iniquities of the British Empire in India. History belongs in the past; but understanding it, and doing whatever we can about it, is the duty of the present.

A trauma that lingers

Equally, we must understand that the return of stolen property is not a substitute for the trauma and the horrors caused by colonialism, because the agony suffered can never truly be removed through such belated restitution. The same holds for financial reparations, since the value of the human lives lost because of colonial indifference or brutality can never be accurately computed. The return of cultural artefacts is rather a moral obligation which the West owes to its colonies, just as reparations can be morally justified as the wealth and the economic success of these former colonial powers were built on the broken backs of their colonies. The return of cultural items offers a semblance of justice as well as expiates a legal and moral obligation which cannot and should not be ignored.

> Retrospective justice for colonialism is not answered by financial reparations and the return of artefacts alone, as there needs to be moral atonement too

The return of some of the treasures looted from India in the course of colonialism is also a much easier solution than financial reparations would be. The money exacted by the British from India in taxes and exploitation has already been spent, and cannot realistically be reclaimed. But individual pieces of statuary sitting in British museums could be, if for nothing else than their symbolic value. After all, if looted Nazi-era art can be (and now is being) returned to their rightful owners in various western countries, why is the principle any different for looted colonial treasures?

Flaunting the Kohinoor on the Queen Mother's crown in the Tower of London is a powerful reminder of the injustices perpetrated by the former imperial power. Until it is returned – at least as a symbolic gesture of expiation – it will remain evidence of the loot, plunder and misappropriation that colonialism was really all about. Perhaps that is the best argument for leaving the Kohinoor where it emphatically does not belong – in British hands.

Need for true atonement

Of course, the process should not end with a few pieces of statuary or jewellery alone. I have argued for some time that the question of retrospective justice for colonialism is not answered by financial reparations alone, but by moral atonement.

This, in my view, should take three forms aside from the (still improbable) return of looted colonial-era artefacts: teaching unvarnished British colonial history in schools in the United Kingdom, setting up with British tax money a museum to the horrors and iniquities of colonialism in the Imperial capital. And, above all, expressing an apology to the victims of colonialism.

When Willy Brandt was Chancellor of Germany, he sank to his knees at the Warsaw Ghetto in 1970 to apologise to Polish Jews for the Holocaust. There were hardly any Jews left in Poland, and Brandt, who as a Socialist was persecuted by the Nazis, was completely innocent of the crimes for which he was apologising. But in doing so – with his historic 'Kniefall von Warschau' (Warsaw Genuflection), he was recognising the moral responsibility of the German people, whom he led as Chancellor. That is precisely why, when I released my book, *Inglorious Empire*, in the United Kingdom, I called for atonement, rather than financial or other compensation for India.

What Britain could do

While no British government of 2023 bears a shred of the responsibility for the horrors of colonialism, as a symbol of the nation that once allowed it to happen, the British government could atone for the past sins of the nation. That is also what Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau did in 2016 when he apologised on behalf of Canada for the actions of his country's authorities a century earlier in denying permission for the Indian immigrants on the *Komagata Maru* to land in Vancouver, thereby sending most of them to their deaths. Mr. Trudeau's Willy Brandt moment needs to find its British echo.

It is unlikely to happen. Britain continues to persist in its intransigence. The U.K. is still well behind the Dutch on the issue of the restitution of colonial artefacts. It shelters behind de-accessioning laws that prevent anything currently in a British Museum from being returned to the place it was looted from. Since pretty much every museum in London is a *chor* bazaar, the British do stand to lose a lot, from the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum to the mechanical tiger devouring a British redcoat (commissioned by Tipu Sultan) in the Victoria & Albert Museum. It is safer to say no to everything than to return one item and unwittingly prise open the floodgates.

But while they say no, they are not prepared to say sorry. An apology – an act of genuine contrition at, ideally, Jallianwala Bagh, like Mr. Trudeau's over *Komagata Maru* – might work best as a significant gesture of atonement. And building a Museum of Colonialism would show a determination, in the metropolitan country, to learn the lessons of Empire – to teach British schoolchildren what sources of loot, pillage and profit built their homeland, just as German children are shepherded to concentration camps to see the awful reality of what their forefathers did.

If all this is done, then true atonement – of the purely moral kind, involving a serious consideration of historical responsibility rather than mere admission of guilt or payment of money – might be achieved. Is that really too much to hope for?

Quiet diplomacy could ease South China Sea tensions

Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy

is Associate Professor at Nalanda International University, Rajgir, Bihar

The Foreign Ministers of India and the Philippines met at the fifth meeting of the Philippines-India Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation, in New Delhi, on June 29. Building on the shared interests of the two maritime Asian republics and nearly 75 years of diplomatic history, the External Affairs Minister of India, S. Jaishankar, and the Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Philippines, Enrique Manalo, outlined the path for a strengthened bilateral partnership between Manila and Delhi in the 21st century.

The South China Sea issue

The decision to open the resident defence attaché office in Manila; boosting cooperation between the Coast Guards of the two countries; acquisition of naval assets by Manila under a concessional line of credit from Delhi; expansion of training and joint exercises on maritime security and disaster responses, and commencing a maritime dialogue are some examples of the evolving strength of this nautical partnership. However, the most notable development was the agreement on regional and multilateral issues, particularly on maritime highways such as the South China Sea. While India reiterated its consistent position on adhering to international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), its unambiguous call to respect the 2016 Arbitral Award on the South China Sea is a departure from India's earlier position. From 'noted' to 'adherence to the 2016 Arbitral Award' is a candid recognition of its legitimacy.

The Philippines had submitted a case of arbitration to the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in order to settle disputes with China. Despite China's formal withdrawal from the arbitration on February 19, 2013, the proceedings continued as scheduled under UNCLOS guidelines. The UNCLOS' Annex VII stipulates: "The absence of a party or the failure of a party to present its case shall not be a bar to the proceedings." The PCA finally released the Award on July 12, 2016. The arbitration took into account maritime rights, the status of particular marine features, historical rights, and the legitimacy of particular Chinese actions in the South China Sea, that Manila claimed to be illegal. The tribunal's decision is "final and binding" in accordance with UNCLOS Article 296 and Article 11 of Annex VII.

> Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations need greater understanding among themselves if they want to convey a crucial political message to China

The PCA denied China's assertion that it had historical rights in the South China Sea, and the unanimous decision was unexpectedly in the Philippines' favour. It further stated that any prior claims to resources situated inside the "nine-dash line" were unfounded. The tribunal determined that development and land reclamation had fundamentally changed the reefs in contravention of UNCLOS commitments. China has "inflicted irreparable harm to the maritime environment" in addition to "destroying evidence of the natural condition of features in the SCS [South China Sea]".

The Tribunal also found that "China has violated the sovereign rights of the Philippines in its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) by (a) interfering with Philippines' fishing and petroleum exploration, (b) constructing artificial islands, and (c) failing to stop Chinese fishermen from fishing in the zone". It added that China had reduced the traditional fishing rights of Filipino fishermen and that by physically obstructing Philippine vessels, Beijing had raised the "serious risk of collision" at sea. Finally, it determined that China had no legal basis for asserting historic rights to resources located within the sea areas under the Tribunal's jurisdiction.

It is essential to remember that the Tribunal "did not rule that it was unlawful in principle for China to undertake construction activities on the disputed islands that it occupies", and that "there is nothing in the decision which would make it unlawful for China to construct military installations on the islands it occupies, with the exception of Mischief Reef". But the Tribunal emphasised that the dispute is driven by their fundamentally different interpretations of separate rights under UNCLOS in the South China Sea. What should be done in response to a China that is assertive and disobeying international law?

A case for dialogue

The South China Sea is a crucial maritime gateway and junction for shipping between the Pacific and Indian Oceans. Any confrontation in the South China Sea, one of the world's most vital oceans in terms of geopolitics, economy, and strategy, will be a danger to regional and global security. As free and stable marine commons are crucial to global trade and economy, India and many other nations have an interest in safeguarding the water lanes that pass through the region.

Despite the fact that the PCA declared its decision, the reality on the ground has not altered, making it practically impossible to carry out the decision. By reiterating the need for a peaceful conflict resolution that fully respects legal and diplomatic channels and abides by the ruling, India has sent a strong message that the region wants peace and respect for international law.

There is a realisation that the South China Sea problem requires a political framework, which can only be created through dialogue. Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) should try to find a political solution through "quiet diplomacy", as the potential for resolving this issue through legal methods is very low. The creation of a "political framework" and progress towards a legally binding "code of conduct" falls more on the shoulders of ASEAN's leaders. If the ASEAN nations want to convey a crucial political message to China, greater understanding is needed among themselves.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Judiciary and Article 370

There could be no rationale now, after a lapse of almost four years, to rake up the issue of the dilution of Article 370 (Page 1, "Centre's view on Kashmir situation has no bearing on Article 370 case: SC", July 12).

The only thing that needs to be examined by the higher judiciary is what has kept the government from holding Assembly elections all this while, if one is to go by its own averment in its affidavit, unprecedented normalcy having dawned on the State following revocation of its special status.

Ravi Mathur,
Noida, Uttar Pradesh

The Supreme Court has rightly ruled that post-notification developments do not have any bearing on the dilution of Article 370. It was a clever move by the executive to split the State of Jammu and Kashmir into Union Territories and dilute Articles 370 and 35A of the Constitution in one stroke when there was no elected legislature in place. The sacred commitment regarding continuation of special provisions regarding Kashmir was blatantly flouted. Understandably, the affidavit of the Centre was evasive, inviting carping criticism from the Court. The Supreme Court being the sentinel on the *qui vive* cannot be a mute spectator to the subterfuge.

S.V. Venkatakrishnan,
Bengaluru

Nature's wrath

The images of battered Himachal Pradesh and other parts of North India capture the magnitude of the devastation and havoc caused by the rain.

Extreme natural events cannot be wished away. However, their magnitude can be minimised.

The crisis is what it is now because of the ways of man and was an event waiting to happen given large-scale deforestation and the systematic destruction of lakes over a period of time.

The extensive trail of destruction can be attributed to the myopic concept/view of 'growth' and 'development' where there is scant attention paid to nature.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

The visuals of swollen rivers and mud floods devouring everything in their paths are horrific.

Even though the intensity of nature's fury is unpredictable, it needs to be accepted that the existing infrastructure is wholly inadequate to withstand it.

In addition to the mix, one has the issue of meddling with the fragile ecosystem. Reconstruction after the colossal damage and destruction to property, infrastructure must be planned well.

V. Johan Dhanakumar,
Chennai

To read more letters online, scan the QR code. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

How the CPI basket conceals the inflation picture

Bibek Debroy
is Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Aditya Sinha
is Additional Private Secretary (Policy & Research), Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister

Imagine entering an antique store and coming across an old wooden trunk. Your eyes wander to a dusty corner where an old radio sits beside a stack of audio cassettes. Suddenly, you're transported to a time when these items were cutting-edge technology, a time when their presence in households was commonplace. However, today, these items are deemed obsolete. This nostalgic scene could well be a metaphor for our current process of tracking the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and subsequently calculating inflation. We continue to monitor a basket of goods that includes torches, radios, tape recorders, CDs, DVDs, audio/video cassettes, and trunks, among some 300 other items. Although these have a minimal weight in the overall CPI calculation, we are clinging onto the past, tracking items that no longer hold the same relevance in our consumption patterns.

An evolving basket

The CPI basket should not be viewed as an unchangeable artefact frozen in time. On the contrary, the real consumption basket of a common Indian is fluid and continually evolving, mirroring the shifts in societal needs, preferences, and economic conditions. As time progresses, consumption patterns of individuals and households inevitably change. Technological advancements introduce new products and services.

It is not just these items which make the CPI flawed. In the current CPI (base year 2012), weights of various groups are as follows: food and beverages (45.86); paan, tobacco and intoxicants (2.38); clothing and footwear (6.53); housing (10.07); fuel and light (6.84); miscellaneous (28.32). The weightage of food in the CPI basket has decreased from 60.9 (in 1960) to 57.0 (in 1982) and to 46.2 (in 2001). This gradual decline indicates that as the economy grows, the proportion of income spent on food decreases. This is a common trend known as Engel's Law, which suggests that as income rises, the proportion of income spent on food falls, even if the absolute expenditure on food rises. Over-reliance on food inflation today distinguishes Indian inflation from many other developed countries where the food weight is much smaller.

These shifts imply that as people's income rises, they tend to allocate a larger proportion of their spending towards non-food items such as housing, education, healthcare, personal care, entertainment, and digital services such as the Internet. This reflects a general improvement in living standards and a broadening of consumer demands.

Further, the startlingly high weight of 9.67 assigned to cereals in the current CPI is undoubtedly excessive and casts a stark light on two critical issues. First, as nations undergo economic advancement and societal progress, a typical trajectory involves diversifying food intake and embracing a broader range of nutrient-rich options beyond cereals. This paradigm shift in dietary habits would have undoubtedly manifested over the past decade, diluting the relative expenditure on cereals. Second, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana has substantially reduced cereal expenditure for a large segment of the populace. It has likely led to modifying consumption patterns and further reducing the relative expenditure on cereals.

There are other examples. Ashok Gulati has written about how tomatoes, onions and potatoes have a considerably higher impact on inflation. It should be lower. The currently soaring tomato prices will disproportionately affect the CPI.

Consumption expenditure

While it's essential to comprehend the evolution of consumption patterns with growing economic prosperity, the challenge lies in effectively reflecting these changes in our inflation metrics without access to up-to-date consumption expenditure data. Weights for CPI can only undergo a significant shift after we have data from the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (CES) data. Currently, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is in the midst of the CES, with the first round slated to conclude in July 2023 and the second round a year later, in July 2024. The Ministry will require an additional three to six months to process the collected electronic data. However, one should be perturbed with such long processing times in this digital age. Nevertheless, even when the CES results are finally published around December 2024, the creation of a new CPI based on this fresh data will consume several more months.

Therefore, we find ourselves in a predicament: we will rely on archaic parameters such as DVD players and trunks for at least the next two years to gauge our inflation. This isn't merely a theoretical challenge; it's a question of how accurately we are measuring the cost of living and economic well-being. In a rapidly evolving digital economy, our data collection and inflation estimation methods must adapt and evolve in tandem to ensure they accurately reflect the realities of modern-day consumption and living.

The absence of CES has spawned a slew of issues. We're unable to determine the population under the poverty line accurately, and our ability to track inflation effectively has been severely undermined. Our tools for understanding and managing our economic reality are grossly inadequate. Consequently, it's an absolute necessity for MoSPI to address these gaps promptly. Additionally, efficient data processing should be a non-negotiable priority. Lastly, for MoSPI to sit indefinitely on the findings of different surveys is an abdication of responsibility that India can ill afford.

The items in the CPI basket and the weights assigned to them should not remain unchanged

From an agency to a planning body

Panchayat planning in West Bengal requires a paradigm shift

STATE OF PLAY

Srikumar Chattopadhyay

The Trinamool Congress has scored a massive victory in the panchayat elections in West Bengal. It is 45 years since the first election for modern panchayats was held in West Bengal, and 30 years since Parliament passed the 73rd and 74th Constitution amendments recognising panchayats and municipalities as constitutionally mandated local self-governments for rural and urban areas, respectively.

Over four and a half decades, decentralisation has enabled the implementation of land reforms and development programmes, helped rejuvenate agricultural growth, and improve rural infrastructure and other development works. It has also helped generate social and political awareness among the people and groom new leadership across social, economic and cultural barriers. Thus, decentralisation has strengthened the roots of democracy.

However, the momentum of the process, set in the first decade, has hardly been maintained over the years. The initial enthusiasm has been sacrificed at the altar of party rivalry and power grabbing. A panchayat has now been turned into a ground-level apparatus for implementing government programmes, and carry forward departmentalism with little creativity and grassroots innovation. According to Article 243G of the Constitution, apart from implementing subjects under the Eleventh Schedule, panchayats have the power to prepare their own plans for economic development and social justice that match with

people's needs and priorities. They can do so by mobilising local resources through an inclusive, transparent, and participatory process. The focus is on local resources, local analysis of problems and solutions, and a collective vision. But there is hardly any effort to accomplish this task.

Panchayat planning in West Bengal thus requires a paradigm shift. Panchayats need to become planning bodies which are committed to local resource development, broaden the democratic decision-making space, and ensure decentralised development.

The rural landscape is changing. Wetlands are under stress. The level of groundwater is falling rapidly, and wells in many parts of the States are drying up well before the onset of summer. To accommodate the growing population, agricultural fields are increasingly being given for settlements. Gentrification is taking place even in rural areas. Local ecosystem services have dwindled, resulting in elevated vulnerability and risk. This is going to be further exacerbated by climate change.

The presently available aggregate data mostly based on conjecture at the village level are not adequate for the preparation of panchayat development plans. A cadastral map of natural and man-made resources comprising land, land use, water, settlements, community assets of health, education etc., and infrastructure by involving local people is necessary. Given the advancement of modern mapping technology and satellite acquired data product, village-level resource mapping can be easily done. The importance of micro-level data for decision-making has been realised across the world. In the last decade, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency compiled a nationwide geographic data (Smart Location Database) on a neighbourhood scale. It contains more than 90 variables under 10 topics.

Based on local-level data, it is important to work out development reports for all the gram panchayats in West Bengal. These may cover local geography, history, and cultural background; natural and human resource base including health and education, use of resources, changing trends, and problems of resource use; existing government programmes; development plans proposed at the village/panchayat level; and a vision for the future. Such an exercise requires the services of people from all walks of life. Technical support groups at the panchayat level involving professionals, teachers, and other personnels, both in-service and retired, and NGOs may help in a big way. This will set the process of grooming civil society at the grass-roots level, which is urgently needed for ensuring checks and balance in the highly politicised society of West Bengal. They can also help in social auditing at the lowest level. This will create a democratic space for debate and deliberations and promote decentralisation.

Srikumar Chattopadhyay, geographer, is with the Gulati Institute of Finance and Taxation, Thiruvananthapuram

Stagnant grants and soaring fees fuel U.S. student debt crisis

The U.S. Supreme Court's dismissal of Biden's loan forgiveness plan will impact Black and Hispanic students disproportionately

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese

On June 30, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the U.S. administration had overstepped its authority in trying to cancel or reduce student loans. It effectively dismissed President Joe Biden's $400 billion student loan forgiveness plan, which he had announced in 2022 in line with his campaign promise. Loan repayments have been kept on hold since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and are expected to resume by late August.

Mr. Biden claimed that his plan would lift the burden of student loans from lower middle-class borrowers and narrow the racial wealth gap. Republicans argued that the relief plan was unfair to students who had already spent years paying off their debts.

Under the student loan relief plan, $10,000 was expected to be cut from all loans owed by graduates earning a salary of less than $1,25,000. For graduates who had exceptional financial need and received Federal Pell Grants during their undergraduate courses, the relief was increased to $20,000. A Pell Grant is a type of federal financial aid in the U.S. that is awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate exceptional financial need.

The issue of student loans has increasingly become a crisis for graduates in the U.S. in the last few decades. Data show that while in 2007, 28 million student borrowers owed a cumulative debt of $0.59 trillion, in 2021, 44 million student borrowers owed a debt of $1.76 trillion. While the number of student borrowers has increased by over 50%, student debt has grown exponentially by 200%, as shown in **Chart 1.** The chart shows the year-wise cumulative student debt (in $trillion) against the number of federal student borrowers (in hundred million).

The skyrocketing costs of college tuition fees in both public and private universities have resulted in this crisis. **Chart 2** shows the year-wise average cost of college tuition fees at a public and a private institution for a four-year graduate course and the year-wise value of a maximum Pell Grant per student. The chart shows that while the maximum Pell Grant awarded to a student has remained stagnant, the cost of education in public universities, where about 77% of U.S. students study, has increased considerably. Also, the tuition fees in private universities, which have an enrolment rate of 23%, has skyrocketed. The chart shows how federal grants have not been able to keep up with college costs in both public and private universities, making student loans a necessity for college education.

Further, despite securing a job which offered adequate pay, student loans absorbed half of it from graduates, especially at the beginning of their careers. Studies by the Education Data Initiative show that the burden of student loans inhibits the spending capability of graduates, could push them into poverty, and also adversely affect the U.S. economy. **Chart 3** compares the average inflation-adjusted annual student loan debt of a graduate student with their average inflation-adjusted starting salary. The chart shows how student loan debts eat up more than 50% of the starting salary of a graduate from the U.S.

The impact of student loans is felt more among some communities due to disparity in income levels. **Table 4** shows student debt as a share of the median income of a graduate based on their race as of 2016. The table also lists the same for an average U.S. person (including graduates) for 2016 and 2021. Graduates from Black and Hispanic communities paid a higher share of their salaries for student loans compared to their White and Asian counterparts.

Mounting debt burden

The data for the charts were sourced from the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the U.S. Census, the Education Data Initiative, and the National Center for Education Statistics

Chart 1 | The chart shows the cumulative student debt (in $ trillion) against the number of federal student borrowers (in hundred million)

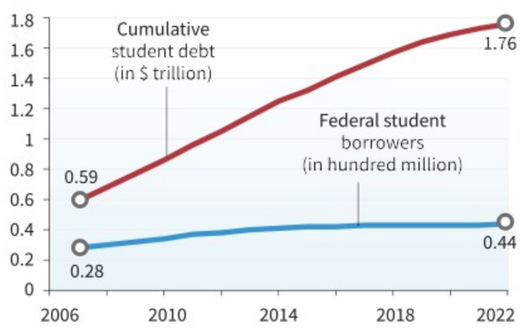


Chart 2 | Average college tuition fees at a public and a private institution for a four-year graduate course and maximum Pell Grants value per student

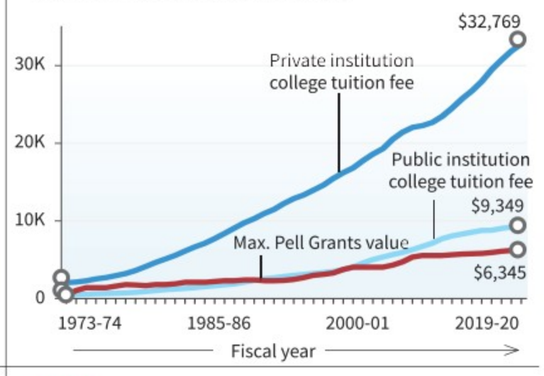


Chart 3 | The chart compares the inflation-adjusted average annual student loan debt of a graduate and their inflation-adjusted average starting salary

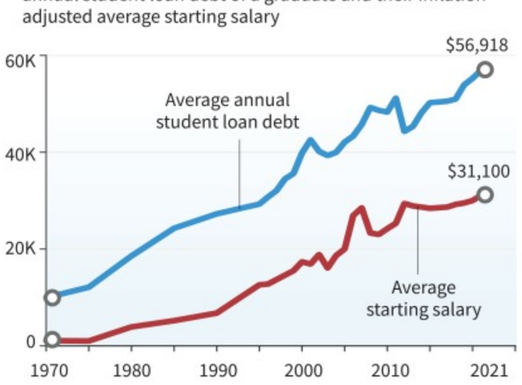


Table 4 | Student debt as a share of the median income based on their race

Race	Debt as a % of median income of graduates in 2016	Debt as a % of median income of an avg. U.S. citizen (including graduates) in 2016	Debt as a % of median income of an avg. U.S. citizen (including graduates) in 2021
All	56.6%	76.1%	75.3%
White	57.1%	64.9%	63.9%
Asian	47.8%	78.6%	66.3%
Black	62.3%	107%	104.9%
Hispanic	63.8%	123.7%	122.4%

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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 13, 1973

'Political interference' in WHO's work

New Delhi, July 12: The World Health Organisation has said that despite its existence for over quarter of a century, health problems in a number of countries have become worse.

A WHO report on its "first 25 years" says that venereal diseases – after a low in the 1950s – have now increased in many parts of the world, and malaria still continues to be a problem.

Political interference from member States is claimed to have slowed down the work of WHO "which was set up purely as a technical agency."

WHO could not keep the world informed about the global cholera situation because some member States refrained from notifying the appearance of cholera in their own countries, the report says.

According to WHO, the number of disease-causing insects, which have developed resistance to insecticides, had increased from 35 to 110 in just 13 years and "the geographical areas where resistant species were found had also increased."

Pollution has caused considerable problems and in the estimate of WHO some 15 million persons suffering from active tuberculosis will this year infest about 50 million children and adolescents.

"A number of hydro-electric and irrigation schemes for economic development have tended to be self-defeating because they have led to an increase in ill-health," it said.

The estimated cases of schistosomiasis (snail-borne disease) in the world are 200 million. The corresponding figure for filariasis is 200 million, for trachoma 400 million, and for hookworm, 450 million.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 13, 1923

"Times" view

London, July 12: In the course of a leading article on the debate in the Assembly on Dr. Nandlal's motion urging the repeal of the Viceroy's certification power, the "Times" says that the debate was not disheartening. It had an educative value and it is one of the functions of the Government of India, which through Sir Malcolm Hailey, it is usefully performing, so to conduct the Assembly as to impress upon Indian politicians the practical and cautious British view of the nature of constitutional Government.

From Page One

Inflation touches 4.8% as food prices climb

Vegetables, in fact, remained in disinflation territory in June but only just, with prices just 0.1% lower than a year earlier, compared with May's disinflation of 8%.

The "tomato shock" would mean vegetable price inflation would resurge sharply this month, while cereals and pulses would also remain under pressure as the area under irrigation was lower so far this year, cautioned Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis.

June's Consumer Price Index surge comes on top of the 7% inflation recorded in the same month last year, when the Consumer Food Price Index had climbed 7.75%.

Despite the high base, cereals recorded an inflation of 12.7% this June, breaking a three-month streak of moderating prices. Spices recorded a sharp 19.2% inflation, while pulses prices rose 10.5%, milk by 8.6% and eggs by 7%.

Edible oil prices, which had shot up after the Russia-Ukraine conflict broke out last year, helped contain the overall food inflation print, recording an 18.1% drop in prices from June 2022 levels.

Among the 22 major States, 13 recorded an inflation rate below the national average of 4.8% in June, but four States recorded 6%-plus inflation, led by Tamil Nadu (6.41%), followed by Uttarakhand (6.32%), Bihar (6.16%) and Haryana (6.1%).

"The path ahead looks grim given the progress of monsoon and the spread across key areas in the Deccan Plateau region," Mr. Sabnavis noted. Crisil chief economist Dharmakirti Joshi underlined that July and August are critical months for agriculture. "We will wait to watch how rains pan out," he concluded.

Big-ticket deals likely during PM's Paris visit

Mr. Modi's schedule in Paris includes interactions with the French President and other leading figures in the government and business world, with the high point being the Bastille Day military parade, where he will be the chief guest.

"This year marks the 25th anniversary of our strategic partnership. There are several pillars of our strategic partnership and each of these pillars would come up for stocktaking under the bilateral talks," Mr. Kwatra said.

Military cooperation

The Rafale-M proposal was cleared by the Defence Procurement Board in the run-up to the visit, and the Defence Acquisition Council – the highest decision-making body on procurement in the Defence Ministry – is expected to review it at a meeting on Thursday.

There are several other defence deals in the pipeline which could see movement during Mr. Modi's visit, including a proposal to buy three more Scorpene-class conventional submarines for the Navy, and a plan to jointly develop fighter jet engines to power fifth-generation advanced medium combat aircraft, and the twin-engine deck-based fighter to operate from carriers.

The two delegations will discuss cooperation on civil nuclear issues, space, cyber security technology, counter terrorism, climate change, renewable energy, and the international solar alliance. "Reorientation of our security partnership in line with *Atmanirbhar Bharat* [self-reliant India] objectives, supply chain integration between the industry and business segments of the two countries would all form part of discussions," Mr. Kwatra said.

Following the visit to Paris, Mr. Modi is scheduled to arrive in the United Arab Emirates on July 15 where he is expected to meet President Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, followed by a ceremonial welcome and bilateral talks.

Police file case against chief of Meitei Leepun

The KSO said in its complaint that the Meitei Leepun had its volunteers and units everywhere, in all the districts of the hills and valleys, and conducted meetings at various places.

Mr. Singh has been booked under Sections 120B, 153A, 504, 505, 506 and 34 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which pertain to criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity between groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc, act pre-judicial to maintenance of harmony, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace, public mischief, punishment for criminal intimidation with common intention. When contacted by *The Hindu*, Mr. Singh said he was not aware of the FIR. "I have not been informed about the FIR, I am not bothered," he added.

MLAs' appeal

Meanwhile, a group of 31 legislators from Manipur sent a representation to Union Home Minister Amit Shah that the "Central security forces must adopt a more proactive approach to ensure lasting peace in the region, which has been elusive over the past two months."

The Manipur police said on Wednesday that suspected armed miscreants travelling in an autorickshaw tried to abduct two police personnel in Moreh.

"The suspected armed miscreants escaped from the area after firing 2-3 rounds in the air. No casualty is reported," the police said.

Government rejects EU Parliament move to discuss Manipur situation

The issue is 'totally internal' to India, says Foreign Secretary, as MEPs criticise government, BJP for 'implementing divisive ethnonationalist policies', broader misuse of AFSPA, UAPA and FCRA and attacks on churches of Kuki tribals

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India on Wednesday rejected the European Parliament's plan to hold an "urgent debate" on the violence in Manipur, calling it an issue "totally internal" to India. The EU debate, set to take place later on Wednesday, seeks to condemn the violence and direct the EU's top officials to speak to New Delhi about remedying the situation. At least 142 have been killed and more than 54,000 driven from their homes since violence erupted on May 3 this year.

Speaking at a briefing for journalists in Delhi, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra said that the debate at the European Parliament is happening despite India's attempts to dissuade parliamentarians and putting across India's point of view.

United appeal: Women belonging to the 'Meira Paibis', a group of women representing Meitei society, hold torches during a demonstation demanding the restoration of peace in Manipur. AFP

"This is a matter totally internal to India. We are aware of the happenings in the [European] Parliament and have reached out to the Members of European Parliament (MEPs) concerned," Mr. Kwatra said, in response to a question from *The Hindu*.

He, however, declined to comment on a report in a Manipur newspaper that said the government has hired a prominent lobbying firm in Brussels, Alber & Geiger, to help with the outreach to MEPs, that had reportedly sent a letter on behalf of the Indian government to them. At least six of the eight political groups in the European Parliament, who will vote on Thursday after the debate on Wednesday, have so far submitted motions 'For a resolution on India, the situation in Manipur'.

While some of the motions criticise members of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for alleged hate speech, and the BJP-led government in Manipur for "implementing divisive ethnonationalist policies", others refer to the broader misuse of Indian laws such as the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), UAPA terror law and the Foreign Contributions Regulatory Act (FCRA) by authorities in the country.

Some of the motions make a special mention of the attacks on churches in the clashes, "between the majority Meitei community (mostly Hindu) and the Kuki tribal group (mostly Christians)".

They also urged the government to end the "Internet shutdowns" in the State.

The move at the European Parliament follows days after U.S. Ambassador to India Eric Garcetti offered U.S. help in dealing with the situation in Manipur.

NHRC seeks report on rail accident victims

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has called for an action-taken report from the Odisha government on a complaint filed by a Delhi-based advocate who had alleged that the State government and the Indian Railways failed to maintain the dignity of the dead in the case of the Balasore train accident.

Responding to the complaint filed by Radhakanta Tripathy, a Supreme Court lawyer, the NHRC directed the Chief Secretary of Odisha and the Chairman, Railway Board, to submit the report within a period of four weeks. The complainant had said that questions on whether the belongings of the victims have been preserved remained unanswered. He also said compensation to next of kin of the deceased have not been settled even after over a month of the tragedy.

Nagaland subdivision bars Aadhaar update for people from Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The authorities of a subdivision in Nagaland's Chümoukedima district have instructed the common service centre operators not to let the Kuki people displaced from Manipur change their addresses in their Aadhaar cards.

The Kukis, recognised as one of 16 tribes of Nagaland, have a larger population in adjoining Manipur. Many of them left Manipur following the ethnic clashes with the majority Meitei people.

"It has come to the notice that some displaced Kukis from Manipur had approached CSC (common service centre) operators for change of address in their Aadhaar," P. James Swu, Additional Deputy Commissioner of Medziphema, said in a Tuesday order.

Halted transition: The Kukis, recognised as one of 16 tribes of Nagaland, have a larger population in adjoining Manipur. PTI

"Therefore, it is directed to all Aadhaar operator (s) operating under Medziphema Subdivision not to entertain change of address in the Aadhaar documents as it may lead to future complications," the order read.

The Zo Reunification Organisation (ZORO), a group advocating the reunification of all Zo people under one administrative unit, organised a demonstration in Mizoram's capital Aizawl on Wednesday to protest against the alleged ethnic cleansing of members of its community in Manipur.

Zo comprises the Chin, Kuki, Mizo, and Zomi tribes scattered across Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Assam apart from Bangladesh and Myanmar.

One administration

The protesters also demanded the creation of a separate administrative unit for the Kuki-Zomi people in Manipur and burnt effigies of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh.

"We urge the Indian government to give the Zo ethnic people in Manipur a separate administration. We support and will work towards the unity of Zo ethnic people all over the world, and for them to be under one administration," ZORO president L. Ramdinliana Renthlei said.

ZORO president R. Sangkawia condemned the silence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the Manipur crisis.

In UNHRC vote, India stands against desecration of Koran

Press Trust of India
GENEVA

India on Wednesday voted in favour of a draft resolution tabled in the UN Human Rights Council that condemns and strongly rejects recent "public and premeditated" acts of desecration of the Koran.

The Geneva-based 47-member UN Human Rights Council adopted the draft resolution 'Countering religious hatred constituting incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence', with 28 members voting in favour, seven abstentions and 12 nations voting against.

India voted in favour of the resolution that "condemns and strongly rejects the recent public and premeditated acts of desecration of the Holy Koran, and underscores the need for holding the perpetrators of these acts of religious hatred to account in line with obligations of States arising from international human rights law".

Rough tally

Those voting in favour of the resolution included Bangladesh, China, Cuba, Malaysia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Qatar, Ukraine and UAE.

Nations voting against the resolution included Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the U.K. and the U.S.

The draft resolution was brought by Pakistan on "behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation" as well as by the State of Palestine.

Linking GST, PMLA is road to tax 'terrorism', alleges Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday alleged that the Narendra Modi government has unleashed "tax terrorism" by surreptitiously bringing the Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The move will be used to threaten trade and industry leaders who do not toe the government line, or are affiliated to the Opposition or have an independent voice, the principal Opposition party alleged.

"Bringing GSTN under PMLA is the means by which the Modi government plans to practice, promote and propagate tax terrorism," senior leader Abhishek Singhvi said, while addressing a press conference at the All India Congress Committee (AICC) headquarters in New Delhi.

"The triplet tactic of constraint, compulsion and coercion by the BJP through the new law will wreak havoc on the business community in India.

Abhishek Singhvi

This is another tactic by the BJP to intimidate, incarcerate and imprison Opposition leaders just ahead of the general elections," Mr. Singhvi added.

He said a July 7 notification of the Finance Ministry, that amends an earlier 2006 notification, will facilitate sharing of information between the GSTN, ED and other investigative agencies. Changes have been made in provisions under Section 66 of the PMLA, which provides for disclosure of information, Mr Singhvi said.

Mr. Singhvi also questioned the introduction of such an important new law without a debate in Parliament.

China pitched four tents in 'buffer zone' in Ladakh: Chushul councillor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) pitched four tents in a "buffer zone" in eastern Ladakh's Chushul two days ago, according to Chushul councillor Konchok Stanzin.

Mr. Stanzin said he received information from the villagers that while three tents were removed after the Indian Army objected to their presence, a fourth one was in the process of being removed. Army did not respond to queries by *The Hindu*.

The incident occurred in the Table Top area of the Gurung Hills in eastern Ladakh.

> PLA pitched four tents just below Table Top mountain in Chushul. The area falls under a buffer zone. Then how did those tents come up?
>
> **KONCHOK STANZIN**
> Chushul councillor

After the June 15, 2020 incident in Galwan where 20 Indian soldiers were killed in violent clashes with the Chinese PLA, several rounds of talks between the two Armies have taken place, leading to disengagement and creation of buffer zones in five areas – Galwan, north and south bank of Pangong Tso, PP-17 A and most recent-PP 15. The buffer zones are the areas that were regularly patrolled by the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Army before April 2020 when China started amassing troops close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

There are at least 26 patrolling points in eastern Ladakh that are not being patrolled any more by the Indian troops.

Mr. Stanzin said that "PLA pitched four tents just below Table Top mountain in Chushul two days back. The area falls under a buffer zone. Then how did those tents come up? It is a complete violation of the disengagement agreement."

He added that the tents were noticed by the Army and the villagers following which a meeting was convened with the Chinese PLA.

Resistance to Assam delimitation proposal grows

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A civil society group in Assam's Brahmaputra Valley has slammed Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for the "ghettoisation" of some Assembly constituencies, that they said would be the result of the Election Commission's draft proposal for delimitation.

According to the draft published in June, the number of Lok Sabha and Assembly seats in the State will remain unchanged at 14 and 126. But four Assembly seats have been moved from the general to the reserved categories, and three have been included in the Bodoland Territorial Council.

The Axom Nagarik Samaj opposed the draft delimitation proposal while criticising Dr. Sarma for "bigoted" remarks related to the redrawing and renaming of the constituencies. The group said the CM's remark was a "gross insult" to the other 24 constituencies in the State, whose voters have been made to feel that they are not people of Assam.

A life spent in inventing stories, asking questions about everything

Sudipta Datta

"We can never know what we want, because living only one life, we can neither compare it with our previous lives nor perfect it in our lives to come."

As news spread on Wednesday of the passing of Milan Kundera, the great Czech existential writer, at 94, his readers began quoting from arguably his most well-known book, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*, published in 1984.

The novel traces the lives of two couples, Tomas and Tereza and Sabina and Franz, as Soviet tanks roll through Prague, the Czech capital. And asks several questions: When life feels like a heavy burden, what should they choose? Weight or lightness? Should they crumble or soar into the air and be lighter than air?

Against totalitarianism

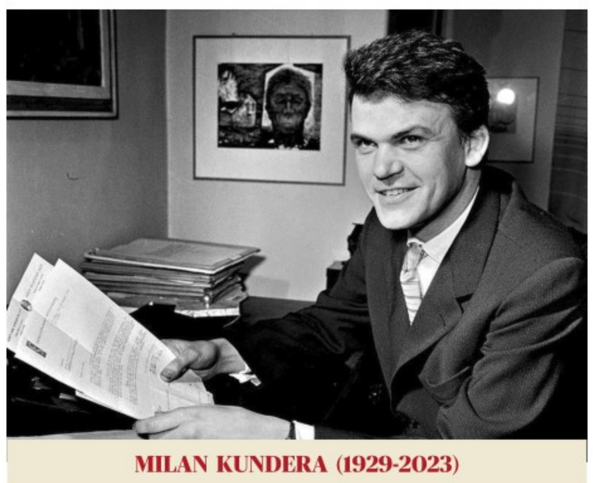
Kundera spent a lifetime inventing stories, confronting one with another, and by this means asked questions about everything – life and death, political and personal, forgetting and remembrance. And exile. He once told American writer Philip Roth that the "wisdom of the novel comes from having a question for everything".

His treatment of deep, existential ideas and questions – "the lightness/weight opposition is the most mysterious, most ambiguous" – navigating his day-to-day world in a seemingly playful manner, made both critics and readers happy.

But most of all, his books are an indictment against totalitarianism, as he wrote in his 1979 novel *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

For Salman Rushdie, this sentence illuminated his understanding of events all over the world, he told *The Guardian*.

By 1984, Kundera had been living in exile in France for nearly a decade following his expulsion from the Czechoslovakian Communist Party for being a dissident, and this gave him the space to elaborate on the themes he was preoccupied with in his early novels like *The Joke* (1969), *Life is Elsewhere* (1974) and *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*. Again, he told Roth, who edited a series, *Writers from the Other Europe*, and promoted Kundera's *The Book of Laughter and Forgetting*, "If someone told me as a boy: One day you will see your nation vanish from the world, I would have considered it nonsense... but after the Russian invasion of 1968, every Czech was confronted with the thought that his nation could be quietly erased from Europe."



MILAN KUNDERA (1929-2023)

In 1993, Czechoslovakia separated into two countries, the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Value of humour

In the same conversation, Kundera said he learned the value of humour during the time of Stalinist terror. "I was 20 then. I could always recognise a person who was not a Stalinist, a person whom I needn't fear, by the way he smiled. A sense of humour was a trustworthy sign of recognition. Ever since, I have been terrified by a world that is losing its sense of humour."

In 1995, Kundera began writing in French, *Slowness* being the first. *The Festival of Insignificance* (2014) was his last novel, which got mixed reviews. Like Roth, Rushdie and several other writers, Kundera was a perennial contender for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Born on April 1, 1929, in the Czech city of Brno, Kundera taught literature at Prague's film academy in 1952. He was a member of the Communist Party but when he raised his voice in favour of freedom of speech and equal rights for all, he was expelled, and ultimately left home to live in Paris. Some called it a betrayal of sorts; there were other controversies – feminists decried his treatment of women. But if there's a musical cadence to his novels, it's perhaps because he was greatly influenced by his father who was a pianist.

In a world which is still redrawing borders, with a war on in Europe, Milan Kundera's books are chillingly relevant for the questions it asks. For these are the questions the world is still grappling with. Rushdie has explained it with precision.

The concept of "the lightness of being", he told *The Guardian*, warns us that life allows us no revisions or second drafts, and this can be "unbearable", but it could also be "liberating".

Rahul to move SC very soon in defamation case, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said it will move the Supreme Court "very soon" to seek a stay on former party chief Rahul Gandhi's conviction by a Surat court in the Modi surname case.

"It will be very soon. It is under preparation and in the nearest future, you will come to know of that," Congress spokesperson Abhishek Singhvi said.

On July 7, the Gujarat High Court refused to stay Mr. Gandhi's conviction in the case that led to the former Congress chief's disqualification from the Lok Sabha.

On Wednesday, Pradesh Congress Committees across the country organised a *maun* (silent) satyagraha to protest against, what the party called, deliberate targeting of Mr. Gandhi by the BJP.

Pradesh Congress Committees (PCCs) across the country organised a *maun* (silent) satyagraha

"We held a nationwide Maun Satyagraha today, where every worker and leader opposed the unfair and undemocratic disqualification of Rahul*ji*. We will continue to fight every act of injustice at the hands of the BJP government, and we are confident that the truth will ultimately triumph," Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal tweeted.

Congress invites 24 'like-minded' parties for Bengaluru meet; Sonia to be part of debates

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge has sent out invitations to eight parties in addition to the 16 that were invited to the Patna meeting on June 23; Bengaluru meet will discuss 'attempts' to break up Opposition parties after the NCP split; leaders wary Modi govt. may advance Lok Sabha election

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi will be part of a dinner that Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will host for the Opposition leaders attending the mega Opposition meet in Bengaluru on July 17 and 18.

Ms. Gandhi is also expected to be part of the formal deliberations on July 18, for which Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has sent out invitation to 24 like-minded parties, including the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

It is unclear whether the AAP will attend the Bengaluru meet as it had earlier announced that it would keep away from such meets until the Congress publicly assured it of support in the Rajya Sabha to negate the Bill that will replace the Ordinance on Delhi services brought by the Union government. The Ordinance gives the Lieutenant-Governor the final say over government officers in the National Capital.

New invitees

The MDMK, KDMK, VCK, RSP, Forward Bloc, Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), Kerala Congress (Joseph) and Kerala Congress (Mani) are the new invitees to the Bengaluru meeting, said sources. These parties were not part of the June 23 meeting in Bihar capital Patna.

Next move: Leaders of Opposition parties taking part in a press conference after a meeting in Patna on June 23. ANI

As many as 32 Opposition leaders, including six Chief Ministers, from 15 political parties were present in the Patna meeting. Though 16 parties were invited, Jayant Chaudhary of the Rashtriya Lok Dal did not attend citing a family function. Mr. Chaudhary on Tuesday said he will attend the Bengaluru meet.

Together, these 24 Opposition parties have around 150 Lok Sabha members and hope to expand their footprints.

A senior Opposition leader, who was part of the Patna meeting, told *The Hindu* that the invitation letter from Mr. Kharge said the dinner would be held on July 17, followed by a formal structured meeting on July 18.

One-on-one formula

Sources said there was an assessment in the Opposition camp, publicly articulated by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, that the Narendra Modi government could spring a surprise by advancing the Lok Sabha election and that's why the Opposition parties want the widest possible consensus on various issues as early as possible.

Mr. Kumar has proposed a one-on-one formula where the Opposition parties can have a joint candidate against the BJP to avoid a split in the anti-BJP votes. However, so far, there is no agreement on such a formula.

The possibility of more Opposition parties breaking up before the 2024 election will also come up for discussion at the Bengaluru meet after the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) witnessed a vertical spilt soon after the Patna meet.

J&K parties question 'normalcy narrative'

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti and National Conference (NC) vice-president Omar Abdullah on Wednesday questioned the normalcy narrative of the government in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The latest affidavit submitted by the government in the Supreme Court only vindicated our [PDP] stand that the BJP had no legal grounds to revoke Article 370. The act was carried out by trampling the Constitution," Ms. Mufti said.

She accused the Lieutenant-Governor's administration of hosting Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud and around 200 judges recently in Srinagar "to influence their perceptions". "However, I have faith in the integrity of the CJI. He must have gauged the real situation. I hope the SC's verdict will take into consideration the sentiments of locals and not use the collective conscience as an alibi to pass a judgment, as was done in the past," she said.

Mr. Abdullah said, "When Lieutenant-Governor moves in Srinagar, everything is brought to a halt for 15 minutes... It's a necessity because the situation is not normal. I challenge the L-G to move around in Srinagar without the security entourage, if it's that normal. Why such a tight security cover when everything is normal?"

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INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH
Tarnaka, Hyderabad -500 007, Telangana State, India.
Advt.No.ICMR-NIN/Tech.Recruit/2023 Date: 12-07-2023
RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION
ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad functioning under the aegis of Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, GOI calling online applications from the eligible candidates for filling up of the posts under Direct Recruitment as detailed under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Post	Pay Level	No. of Posts
1	Technical Assistant	Level: 6 - Rs. 35400 - 112400	45 Posts
2	Technician-1	Level: 2 - Rs.19900 - 63200	33 Posts
3	Laboratory Attendant-1	Level: 1 - Rs.18000 - 56900	38 Posts

The detailed Recruitment Notification will be published in ICMR-NIN web-site **www.nin.res.org** on **24-07-2023** along with online registration / application link. The last date for receipt of application is **14-08-2023.** Any changes will be notified by corrigendum /addendum in the website.
Sd/- DIRECTOR

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION 2023
For the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Govt. of India
Applications are invited in the prescribed Application Form through Online mode for the recruitment of 553 posts of Examiner of Patents and Designs, General Central Service, Group 'A' Gazetted (Non-Ministerial) in Level 10 in Pay Matrix (56,100 – 1,77,500) plus applicable allowances, as admissible, in the Government of India. For educational and other qualification along with the terms and conditions please visit- **https://www.qcin.org** or **https://ipindia.gov.in**

S. No.	Discipline	SC	ST	OBC	EWS	UR	Total
1	Bio-Technology	7	3	14	5	21	50
2	Bio-Chemistry	3	1	5	2	9	20
3	Food Technology	2	1	4	1	7	15
4	Chemistry	8	3	15	6	24	56
5	Polymer Science and Technology	1	NIL	3	1	4	9
6	Bio-Medical Engineering	8	3	15	5	22	53
7	Electronics & Communication	15	6	30	11	46	108
8	Electrical Engineering	4	1	8	3	13	29
9	Computer Science & Information Technology	9	3	17	6	28	63
10	Physics	4	1	8	3	14	30
11	Civil Engineering	1	NIL	3	1	4	9
12	Mechanical Engineering	14	5	27	10	43	99
13	Metallurgical Engineering	NIL	NIL	1	NIL	3	4
14	Textile Engineering	1	NIL	2	1	4	8
	Total	**77**	**27**	**152**	**55**	**242**	**553**

Portal shall be operational w.e.f 14th July 2023. Last date for submission of online application is 4th August, 2023
Sd/-
Project Head (CGPDTM, QCI)
QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA — Creating an Ecosystem for Quality
Conducted by:
Quality Council of India
Institution of Engineers Building, 2- Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi -110002, India, Telephone : 011 – 2337 8056; 2337 9321
Recruitment Advertisement No. QCI/ CGPDTM/001

OFFICE OF THE ADDL. CHIEF ENGINEER P.W.D. ZONE TONK
क्रमांक : **1685-1696** दिनांक : **04/7/2023**
Notice Inviting Bid
17/2023-24
Bids for Widening & Strengthing work of various roads under 16 Nos. Package 10 Crore Non-Patchable /Missing Link under SRF Scheme in District Dausa, SWM & Tonk for the Budget Declaration Year 2023-24, Zone Tonk (Provision of Defect liability period is 5 Years) are invited from interested bidders upto 13-07-2023 Time 6.00 PM. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state; and Public Works department Rajasthan website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 3168.65 Lacs.
NIB code PWD2324A1436
PWD2324WSOB07166
PWD2324WSOB07167
PWD2324WSOB07184
PWD2324WSOB07185
PWD2324WSOB07187
PWD2324WSOB07194
PWD2324WSOB07199
PWD2324WSOB07211
PWD2324WSOB07212
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PWD2324WSOB07215
PWD2324WSOB07225
PWD2324WSOB07227
PWD2324WSOB07229
PWD2324WSOB0723
DIPR/C/10035
(R.S. Bairwa),
Addl. Chief Engineer,
P.W.D., Zone, Tonk

INBRIEF

NABARD is the spine of rural India, says Home Minister

Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Wednesday asked National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to fix targets to finance the agriculture sector and rural development for the next 25 years when India will complete 100 years of Independence. He said NABARD is the spine of rural India. Mr. Shah addressed the 42nd Foundation Day of NABARD on Wednesday. He said all employees should be involved in fixing targets. He said that NABARD has refinanced ₹20 lakh crore in the rural economy with a growth rate of 14% in the last 42 years. He added that a nation with 65 % rural population cannot prosper without NABARD.

Allahabad HC admits appeal of victims of Maliana violence

A Division Bench of the Allahabad High Court on Tuesday admitted the criminal appeal of the alleged victims of Maliana violence in which at least 72 Muslims lost their lives in Meerut in May 1987. The High Court has issued notice to the parties concerned and summoned lower court records. The appeal was filed by Vakeel Ahmad, Mohd. Yakub and Ismail Khan against the acquittal order passed by the Additional Sessions Judge on March 31 this year. Describing it as a positive development, counsel for the victims Mohd. Danish said that after the State didn't appeal against the sessions court order, wherein it acquitted all the 39 accused.

Tribal MP Deepak Baij to head Chhattisgarh Congress

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge appointed Deepak Baij, a tribal leader and a Lok Sabha member from Bastar, as the chief of the party's Chhattisgarh unit. Mr. Baij replaces Mohan Markam, whose tenure as the Pradesh Congress Committee president ended last year. The appointment that comes before the Assembly election and nearly a fortnight after Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's political rival T.S. Singh Deo being elevated as the Deputy Chief Minister is yet another sign of the party ironing out the creases before full-fledged campaigning gets under way.

CBI files chargesheet against freelance defence journalist

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Wednesday filed a chargesheet against freelance defence journalist Vivek Raghuvanshi and former Navy commander Ashish Pathak, who were arrested in May for alleged involvement in espionage. According to the agency, Mr. Raghuvanshi received about ₹3 crore from foreign sources. Information about the future procurement to be made for the Indian armed forces, communications linked to national security; details about the strategic and diplomatic talks of India with its friendly countries were accessed by the accused and shared with the foreign intelligence agencies, the CBI has alleged.

Centre to buy tomatoes from south and west to sell in northern cities

Stocks from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to be procured for distribution through retail outlets at a discount to consumers in the Delhi-NCR region by tomorrow; Bathinda in Punjab records the highest price of ₹203 a kg

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

After tomato prices rocketed to ₹200 a kg in some cities, the Centre decided on Wednesday to use its agencies to procure stocks from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra and sell them at a discount in areas where prices remained high.

Rain and floods in Himachal Pradesh have caused transportation disruptions, pushing up the price of tomato further in northern cities. Bathinda in Punjab recorded the highest price – ₹203 a kg – in the country on Wednesday. The national average price of the day was ₹111.71. Last year, on the same date, the price was ₹40.83.

In demand: The Centre will distribute stocks in cities where the retail prices have recorded the biggest increase. M. MOORTHY

The Department of Consumer Affairs directed the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and the National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF) to immediately procure tomatoes from markets in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra for distribution in major consumption centres where retail prices have recorded the biggest increase in the past one month. "The stocks of tomato will be distributed through retail outlets at discounted prices to the consumers in Delhi-NCR region by Friday," a government release said.

According to data shared by the Ministry, Himachal Pradesh is the only State where tomatoes are harvested in July. The Ministry had said earlier that the increase in price is seasonal and would come down when stocks from Himachal Pradesh reached vegetable markets in the northern parts of the country. "The prices will stay high for the next 15-20 days. It will not go higher," the official said.

The Ministry said southern and western regions of the country contribute 56% to 58% of the all-India production.

"Southern and western regions being surplus States, feed to other markets depending on production seasons," the Ministry said. It added that supplies are coming mostly from Maharashtra's Satara, Narayangaon and Nashik areas and stocks are expected to last till July-end.

President hails unity in diversity, tolerance

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India, as a multi-cultural and multi-religious society, celebrates unity in diversity and its over 200 million Muslims make the country the second largest population of the community in the world, President Droupadi Murmu said on Wednesday. Welcoming Muslim World League secretary General Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, Ms. Murmu said India appreciates the role of the Muslim World League in promoting tolerant values, moderation of consciousness and inter-faith dialogue. She added that both India and Saudi Arabia were calling for "zero tolerance" against terrorism.

Supreme Court gets two new judges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The President on Wednesday appointed Telangana Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Kerala Chief Justice S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti as Supreme Court judges. The appointments came within a week of the Supreme Court Collegium, led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, recommending their names to the government.

The two new appointments increase the judicial strength of the court to 33, leaving only one vacancy. Justice Bhuyan, appointed as a judge of the Gauhati High Court on October 17, 2011, had been serving as the Chief Justice of the Telangana court since June 28 last year.

"Justice Bhuyan is a judge with a good reputation for integrity and competence," the collegium resolution had read.

Justice Bhatti was appointed a judge of the Andhra Pradesh High Court on April 12, 2013. The collegium had explained its choice of Justice Bhatti, saying the High Court of Andhra Pradesh did not have any representation on the Bench of the Supreme Court since August 2022.

Justice Bhatti was transferred to the High Court of Kerala in March 2019. He had been serving as Chief Justice there since June 1, 2023.

Collegium refuses requests of 3 judges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court Collegium on Wednesday found no merit in the reservations expressed by three High Court judges against their proposed transfers to other States. The Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud stood firm by its recommendations to transfer these judges.

Refusing to budge in all three cases of Justice Gaurang Kanth who requested transfer to Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan or any neighbouring States, Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh who asked for a transfer to Delhi, Punjab, or any nearby States and Justice Manoj Bajaj who wanted to stay back instead of being transferred to Allahabad, the Collegium said it had given "thoughtful consideration" and did not find any merit in the requests.

Swollen Yamuna poses a danger to many low-lying areas in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With water level of Yamuna in Delhi hitting a 60-year-high, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday urged the Union government to intervene to ensure that the level does not rise further and if possible, release less water from the Hathnikund barrage in Haryana.

The water level of the Yamuna in Delhi rose steadily during the day and was 207.89 metres at 8 p.m. on Wednesday and it is expected to rise to 207.99 metres by 5 a.m. on Thursday, the Central Water Commission said.

Mr. Kejriwal, after a meeting with senior officials, urged people living in low-lying areas close to the Yamuna to evacuate their houses without waiting.

Several low-lying areas in the city close to the river, including Boat Club, Monastery Market, Yamuna Bazaar, Geeta Ghat and the stretch from Majnu Ka Tilla to Wazirabad, have been flooded by river water. Mr. Kejriwal said that there could be back flow from Yamuna to some drains and it could lead to flooding in areas away from the river. The water released from the Hathnikund barrage has come down from 3.59 lakh cusecs on Tuesday (which was the highest this week) to 1.47 lakh cusecs at on Wednesday, according to Delhi government data. Water level of the Yamuna in Delhi depends heavily on the amount of water being released from Hathnikund barrage, which is upstream of Delhi.

To the rescue: Army personnel rescue flood-affected people who were stuck in the Urban Estate area of Patiala on Tuesday. ANI

As on Wednesday evening, most parts of the city were unaffected by the swollen river.

"Currently, the river's embankments have not been broken and only low-lying areas close to the river have been flooded. The government is in the process of evacuating 41,000 people living close to the river. Over 7,000 people were evacuated till Tuesday night. A total of 50 boats have been stationed from Palla to Okhla.

293 people stranded in Lahaul-Spiti district

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

At least 293 people were stranded in the Chandertal Lake area in the tribal district of Lahaul-Spiti in Himachal Pradesh, even as torrential rain relented on Wednesday, accelerating the rescue operations. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu conducted an aerial survey of Sissu, Chandertal and Losar in the tribal Lahaul-Spiti district and Manali region of Kullu district to take stock of the destruction caused by the relentless rain.

From June 24 to July 11, the State has seen 51 instances of landslips and 32 incidents of flash floods. At least 88 people have lost their lives, while 16 are missing.

Haryana Chief Minister announced a compensation of ₹4 lakh for the families who lost their members in the flash flood.

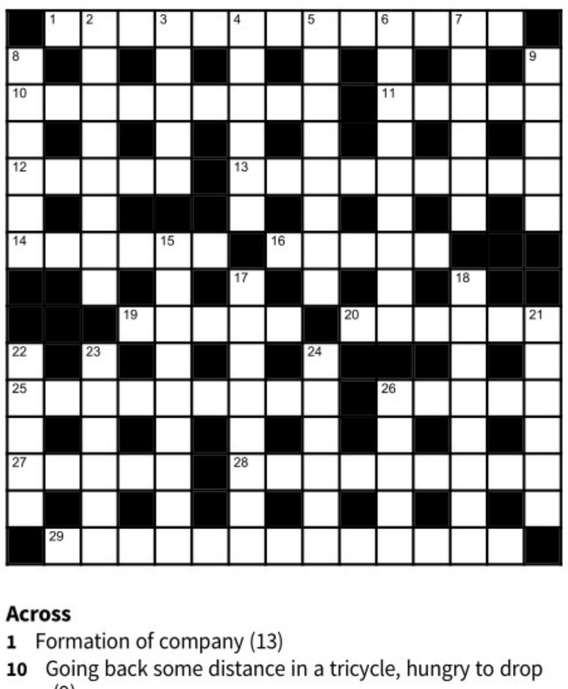
In Punjab 1,058 villages of 14 districts have been ravaged by the flood fury. During the past 24 hours, three people died, it added.

TH CROSSWORD + 13916

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Formation of company (13)
10 Going back some distance in a tricycle, hungry to drop (9)
11 Napped in exercise after first sum looked exhausting (5)
12 Orders managed quick at last by son (5)
13 Really, really met ex after Al left party (9)
14 Governing body has, say, Bengali worried (6)
16 Cycle at gate, it is behind barrel (5)
19 Rumours of drink stored in empty tuns (5)
20 Flee with a key (6)
25 Homemaker at hotel near river with a heartless adversary (9)
26 Scale over top of enclosure and arrest (5)
27 Copy trendline in parts (5)
28 Reforming mischievous child straying (9)
29 Umpire's gear at a resort in disarray with some appliances (13)

Down

2 Turning south and bolting (8)
3 Sources of all corrosive ingredients derived successfully from chemicals like HCl (5)
4 Goes to the French avenue with son (6)
5 Man in outskirts of Seoul almost snappy with guards (8)
6 Setter's sequence over time become problems (9)
7 Born dead? Article missed (6)
8 Zepto engineer supports animals (6)
9 Halts express running over time by a second (5)
15 Tourist is a banker, seen outside party for the most part (9)
17 Leaving Resistance, finally life's hard (8)
18 Nothing, man's a fibber. Usual (8)
21 Power of regency demolished in the absence of country's leader (6)
22 Childish American displays remorse (5)
23 Cry over designated driver in pool (6)
24 Man, Peter's in a frenzy, rage (6)
26 Strong beer (5)

SUDOKU

				1	3			
		1		2		9	6	5
			8					3
9	2			4				
8	3		1		9		4	2
				3			5	9
6					5			
5	4	8		7		1		
			6	9				

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS5856 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

D	I	S	C	L	O	S	E	
O		K		U		A		
C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	
T		T		R		C		D
O	R	C	H	E	S	T	R	A
R		H				U		R
			S	I	A	M		
P		P		N				
A	N	A	R	C	H	Y		H
R		R		O		A		Y
A	G	I	N	G		L	I	G
M		S		N		E		I
O	R	I	G	I	N		L	E
U		A		T				N
R	A	N	S	O	M		P	E

A	D	J	U	S	T			
	E		N		I			
	G	A	R	D	E	N		
	T		E		K			
	H	O	R	S	E			
	T		D		R			
K	A	R	A	O	K	E		
	A		G		R			
H	Y	P	E					
		V			E			
L	I	G	H	T	N	I	N	G
I		I		D		E		
L	E	T	D	O	W	N	S	
N		E		A		T		
P	E	R	S	O	N	A	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	8	9	2	3	7	5	4	1
7	5	3	4	1	6	8	2	9
2	1	4	9	5	8	7	3	6
1	6	5	3	2	9	4	7	8
4	7	2	1	8	5	9	6	3
3	9	8	6	7	4	2	1	5
5	2	6	7	9	3	1	8	4
8	3	1	5	4	2	6	9	7
9	4	7	8	6	1	3	5	2

FAITH

Worship of Sun God

It has been the practice from time immemorial to worship the forces of nature as deities. The Sun plays a pivotal role in our day-to-day life for our sustenance. The Sun is also called Aaditya and Bhaskara. Scriptures say one can worship the Sun God for good and healthy life – "*Arogyam Baskarath Icheth.*"

Rama was fatigued by the war with Ravana. Sage Agasthya appeared before Rama and recited *Aaditya Hrudayam* (containing 31 verses in praise of the Sun God) which helped Rama rejuvenate and recover his strength.

Sri Dhushyanth Sridhar said in a discourse that the greatness of *Aaditya Hrudayam* can be understood by the fact that it was narrated by sage Agasthya, heard by Sri Rama, written by sage Valmiki and was about the glory of the Sun God. It contains the quintessence of the Vedas.

The first couple of slokas give an introductory note. With the help of our senses, the Sun God percolates through his rays (*Surya Rasmi*) to enrich us. It is believed that recitation of this sacred hymn will help conquer enemies, overcome troubles, derive peace and happiness and ensure longevity of life.

Besides various external enemies, we have six internal enemies. They are: lustful desires (*kama*), anger (*krodha*), madness and intoxication (*madha*), illusion and confusion (*moha*), jealousy (*matsarya*) and avarice and allurement (*lobha*).

Lord Narayana is called by three unique forms – *Thani kadale* (reclining in the milky ocean); *Thani Sudare* (dwelling in the midst of the Sun – *Surya mandala madhyavarthi*); and *Thani Ulage* (residing in Sri Vaikuntam).

KAMPALA

Iran President Raisi visits Kenya and Uganda to deepen relations

AFP

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visited Kenya and Uganda on a mission to strengthen ties as he embarked on the first trip by an Iranian leader to Africa in 11 years. The visit comes as the Iran tries to shore up diplomatic support to ease its international isolation, with Raisi due to travel to Zimbabwe on Thursday. AFP

SEOUL

North Korea fires new missile in response to U.S. military activity

AP

North Korea test-fired its first intercontinental ballistic missile in three months, days after it threatened "shocking" consequences to protest what it called provocative U.S. military activity near its territory. The Hwasong-18 ICBM flew about 1,000 km before landing in waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. AP

MOSCOW

Wagner mercenaries surrendering weapons to the military: Russia

REUTERS

Mercenaries of the Wagner Group are completing the handover of their weapons to the Russian military, the Defence Ministry said, in a move that follows the private Army's brief rebellion last month that challenged the Kremlin's authority. The actions come amid uncertainty about the fate of Wagner chief Yevgeny Prigozhin. AP

WASHINGTON

NASA celebrates Webb telescope anniversary with new image

AP

Jets of red gas bursting into the cosmos, and a glowing cave of dust: NASA marked a year of discovery by the James Webb Space Telescope on Wednesday with a spectacular new image of sun-like stars being born. The picture is of the Rho Ophiuchi cloud complex, the nearest stellar nursery to Earth. AFP

Zelenskyy persists with bid for Ukraine's NATO entry

At the end of annual summit, Ukraine President welcomes promise of weapons; NATO-Ukraine council formed to bring Kyiv as close as possible to the military alliance without actually joining it

Associated Press
VILNIUS

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed fresh commitments of weapons and ammunition to fight Russia's invasion even as he expressed disappointment over the lack of a clear path for his country to join NATO as the alliance wrapped up its annual summit on Wednesday.

"The Ukrainian delegation is bringing home a significant security victory for the Ukraine, for our country, for our people, for our children," he said while flanked by U.S. President Joe Biden and other leaders from the Group of Seven most powerful democratic nations.

A joint declaration issued by the G-7 lays the groundwork for each nation to negotiate agreements to help Ukraine bolster its military over the long term. Mr. Zelenskyy described the initiative as a bridge toward eventual NATO membership and a deterrent against Russia.

Hard sell: Volodymyr Zelenskyy, right, and his wife Olena Zelenska, centre, at the Presidential Palace in Vilnius in Lithuania. AFP

"Our support will last long into the future," Mr. Biden said. "We're going to help Ukraine build a strong, capable defence."

The announcement came as NATO leaders launched a new forum for deepening ties with Ukraine, known as the NATO-Ukraine Council. It's intended to serve as a permanent body where the alliance's 31 members and Ukraine can hold consultations and call for meetings in emergency situations.

The setting is part of NATO's effort to bring Ukraine as close as possible to the military alliance without actually joining it.

"Today we meet as equals," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said on Wednesday at a news conference with Mr. Zelenskyy. "I look forward to the day we meet as allies."

Drone attack

Meanwhile, Ukraine said on Wednesday it had shot down 11 Russian drones overnight in a second consecutive night of attacks on the capital Kyiv.

The statement did not say if other drones were shot down in other parts of Ukraine.

Norway said it would supply ultra-light drones and components for air defence missile systems to Ukraine.

The ambiguous plan for Ukraine's future membership reflects the challenges of reaching consensus among the alliance's current members while the war continues, and has frustrated Mr. Zelenskyy even as he expressed appreciation for military hardware being promised by Group of Seven industrial nations.

"The results of the summit are good, but if there were an invitation, that would be ideal," Mr. Zelenskyy said.

Despite his disappointment, the Ukrainian leader was more conciliatory on Wednesday than the previous day, when he harshly criticised the lack of a timeline for membership as "unprecedented and absurd."

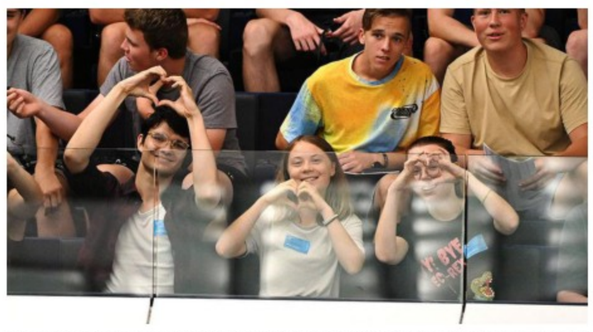
"NATO needs us just as we need NATO," he said alongside Mr. Stoltenberg.

Despite conservative backlash, EU Parliament backs biodiversity Bill

Agence France-Presse
STRASBOURG

The European Parliament on Wednesday narrowly backed a key biodiversity bill aimed at rewilding EU land and water habitats, overcoming a backlash by conservative lawmakers who said it would hurt farmers.

The text endorsing the Nature Restoration Law passed with 336 votes in favour, 300 against and 13 abstentions, setting the scene for the EU Parliament to negotiate a final law on the issue with member state governments.



Climate campaigner Greta Thunberg, centre, at the voting session of the EU nature restoration law in Strasbourg, France. AFP

Opposition's reasons

The EU Parliament's biggest political grouping, the conservative European People's Party (EPP), had sought to shoot down the text, arguing that it would reduce EU food security and limit the possibilities to build wind and hydroelectric energy facilities.

But it was outnumbered by other lawmakers who feared defeat of the text would send a signal that Europe was backing away from its green goals.

The conservative opposition to it, supported by extreme-right lawmakers, meant parts of the text were amended in ways that leftwing lawmakers said watered it down.

Much of the political fight around the text stemmed from electoral manoeuvres as parties positioned themselves ahead of EU elections to take place in June 2024.

The Nature Restoration Act, initiated by the European Commission, aims to resuscitate degraded ecosystems by boosting forested areas, marine habitats and increasing connectivity between rivers.

It notably seeks to grow populations of bees, birds and butterflies – especially on farmland, which would also be encouraged to bring back marsh – and peatlands previously drained.

The EPP, which woos Europe's farmers as a key constituency, had called the bill a "bad proposal" and that farmers' concerns deserved to be listened to.

The EPP chief in the parliament, Manfred Weber, said in the lead-up to Wednesday's vote that "our approach is bridge-building" and that was why it wanted the current proposal to be scrapped and another drawn up.

Thai poll body wants to suspend PM frontrunner

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

Thai election chiefs on Wednesday asked the country's top court to suspend Pita Limjaroenrat, the frontrunner in the race to become Prime Minister, over allegations he broke campaign rules as an MP.

The recommendation is the latest hurdle thrown into the path of the progressive candidate, whose Move Forward Party (MFP) scored the most votes in May's election by tapping into Thais' appetite for change.

The Election Commission's referral to the Constitutional Court was announced just a day before Parliament was due to vote on a new premier.

While popular among voters, Mr. Pita's bid for the premiership faces stiff opposition over his plans to amend Thailand's royal defamation laws, which protect King Maha Vajiralongkorn and his family.

Following the commission's announcement, MFP secretary general Chaithawat Tulathon said the party still wanted the vote to go ahead.

Pakistan gets final IMF nod for $3-bn loan in stand-by arrangement

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

In a relief to cash-strapped Pakistan, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Wednesday gave a final nod to a $3 billion "stand-by arrangement" for the country to support the government's efforts to stabilise the ailing economy.

The development came two weeks after the two sides reached a staff-level agreement over the "stand-by arrangement".

"The Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a 9-month Stand-By Arrangement (SBA) for Pakistan for an amount of SDR2,250 million (about $3 billion, or 111 per cent of quota) to support the authorities' economic stabilisation programme," the global lender said in a statement.

The *Dawn* newspaper reported that the approval allows for an immediate disbursement of $1.2 billion.

"The remaining amount will be phased over the programme's duration, subject to two quarterly reviews," it added.

The global lender said that the programme would focus on the "implementation of the FY24 budget to facilitate Pakistan's needed fiscal adjustment and ensure debt sustainability".

Funds from West Asia

The development came after Pakistan received $2 billion from Saudi Arabia and $1 billion from the UAE as per conditions of the fund.

Pakistan has been struggling to get IMF support for its ailing economy.

It is believed that the new loan will improve the country's foreign exchange reserve and also open the door to multilateral loan agreements with institutions and countries.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU
DEPARTMENT OF HANDLOOMS
E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders with two cover system are invited from the eligible bidders for the Sizing of following varieties of yarn for Distribution of Sarees and Dhoties Scheme, Pongal 2024.

COTTON YARN

Sl. No.	Variety of yarn	Required Quantity (in MT)	Required Earnest money deposit in (Rs.)	Date and Time of availability of Bid Document in the web portal	Last date and time for receipt of online submission of filled Bid Documents	Date and time of online opening of Bids		Supply Period
						Technical Bid	Financial Bid	
1.	40sK Grey Cotton (warp quality) Yarn	3126	5,00,000/-	13.07.2023 to 14.08.2023 upto 2.00 pm	14.08.2023 upto 2.30 pm	14.08.2023 at 3.30 pm	Will be intimated later	180 days
2.	60sC Dyed Cotton (warp quality) Yarn	2183						

Eligibility of the Tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid documents.
1. Complete E-Tender documents can be viewed and downloaded through at **free of cost** from Government tender website **https://tntenders.gov.in**.
2. The Bidders have to participate online bidding only with Digital Signature certificate (DSC) of class III.

Contact : Joint Director (Uniforms)
Telephone : 044-25358715
Email ID : tenderwing2023@gmail.com

DIPR/3608/Tender/2023
Joint Director (Uniforms)/ Tender Inviting Authority
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Chengalpattu
TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No. 17 / 2023-2024 / SDO / Dt : 10.07.2023

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu **Item Rate tender through online only** will be received upto **18.08.2023, 15.00** hours by the **Superintending Engineer(H) NABARD & Rural Roads, Chengalpattu Circle for One bridge work in respect of Vellore(H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division and One bridge work in respect of Cuddalore(H) NABARD & Rural Roads Division under NABARD RIDF.XXVIII – 158 Bridge works 2022-2023.**

Details of Name of work, approximate value of works, EMD, availability of tender documents and all other details are available from **14.07.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

Superintending Engineer (H), NABARD & Rural Roads Circle, Chengalpattu-1.

DIPR/ 3597 /TENDER/2023
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்"

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED
CORRIGENDUM – 1
No.Fin.2(C)/SBI Capital Markets LTD/2022-23 Dated :12.07.2023
Date and Time of pre-bid meeting and extension of time and date of submission of EOI
In connection with EOI for providing advisory service for refinancing (uploaded on 20.06.2023), a pre-bid meeting (online) will be arranged on **15th July 2023 at 3.00 pm**. A corrigendum in this regard is uploaded in the website of KSEBL on **12.07.2023**.
For more details please visit the website **www.kseb.in.**
Ref: PR/MC1/F302/ E-Tender/2023 Sd/- FINANCIAL ADVISER

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM DIVISION - ELECTRICAL/WORKS
TENDER NOTICE NO.: V-EG-OT-10-2023-2024
The Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical-Genl /Trivandrum Division for & on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tender. On-line bids only will be accepted.

Sl.No.	Name of the work	Value (₹)	EMD (₹)
1	Trivandrum Division: Improvement to reliability of power supply arrangement by replacement of over aged assets	24423607/-	272100/-
2	Trivandrum Division: Power supply arrangement for escalators & lifts at various stations	912090/-	18300/-
3	Trivandrum Division: Proposed garbage disposal by providing solid waste management plant at Kochuveli	2005757/-	40100/-

Date of opening: Sl. No. 1 to 3: 31.07.2023
Detailed NIT, bidding document etc can be viewed/down-loaded from website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** EMD shall be made on-line gateway mode only. Addendum/ Corrigendum, time extension, Clarification etc if any will be uploaded in website only. Bidders should regularly visit website to keep themselves updated.
Divisional Railway Manager/Electrical-Genl/Trivandrum
Follow us on: twitter.com/GMSRailway

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Government of Karnataka undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)
CORRIGENDUM
Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company Limited invited tender through e-Procurement platform from eligible bidders for **"Supply, Integration, Warranty & On-site Maintenance of Android OS based Integrated Spot Billing Device (SBD), Connectivity, software, Thermal paper and allied services for Spot Billing in RAPDRP/IPDS area (Urban Area)".** The tender number shall be read as **BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT3** instead of tender enquiry number BESCOM/GM(CR)/DGM(HTM)/BC-48/2023-24/01 dated 16.05.2023. The tender is available against the tender number BESCOM/2023-24/OW/WORK_INDENT3 in the new e-Procurement portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **11.07.2023** onwards. Aspiring bidders need to register in the e-Procurement portal. Further, Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk 91-8046010000, +91-8068948777 or e-mail to support@eprochelpdesk.com for any issue.
For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download "BESCOM Mithra" Mobile APP
Sd/-
The General Manager (Elec.), Customer Relations, BESCOM

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : Re-74, 75,76/2023-24/SE/PHC/MVPA, **Jal Jeevan Mission** - WSS TO NEDUMKANDAM and other PANCHAYATHS IN IDUKKI DISTRICT - Providing and Laying CWGM from Kalyanathandu to Nedumkandom SPH and construction of SPH - Pipeline Work, 2) Providing FHTCs in Peermade panchayath, 3) Providing FHTCs in Chinnakanal Panchayath. **EMD :** Rs. Rs.5,00,000/- each, **Tender Fee :** Rs. Rs.16,540/- each, **Last Date for Submitting Tender :** 26-07-2023 04:00 pm, **Phone:** 0485 - 2835637. Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-648-2023-24 PH Circle, Muvattupuzha

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
Department of Agriculture
Request for Proposal (RFP)
Department of Agriculture, AP invites bids for selection of supplier of Bromadiolone 0.25%CB of 15,413 Kgs under Rodent Control Programme for RBKs in East Godavari, Kakinada, Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Konaseema, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Bapatla, Palnadu, Nandyal, Tirupati and SPSR Nellore districts during 2023-24 under RKVY - RAFTAAR, For other details please visit **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** or **www.apagrisnet.gov.in**
Sd/- Sri. C.Hari Kiran
DIPR 2200PP/CL, Dt: 12-07-2023 Special Commissioner of Agriculture

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सानिवि, वृत्त-ग्रामीण, जयपुर
पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस, जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर
E-mail: sejprur.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in, E-mail: seruraljaipur@gmail.com, फोन:- 0141-2223527
क्रमांक: 2096-2105 दिनांक: 4.07.2023
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या: 10/2023-2024
ग्रामीण वृत्त, जयपुर अन्तर्गत बजट घोषणा 2023-24 की पालना में विधानसभा क्षेत्रवार राशि रु. 10.00 करोड़ के नॉन पैचेबल/ मिसिंग लिंक सड़कों एवं अन्य निर्माण कार्य के कार्यों हेतु इच्छुक निविदादाताओं द्वारा दिनांक 15.07.2023 तक निविदाएं आमन्त्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से संबन्धित अन्य विवरण राज्य की उपापन पोर्टल (http://eproc.rajasthan. gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखे जा सकते हैं। उपापन की अनुमानित कुल लागत रु. 473.13 लाख है।
UBN No.: PWD2324WS0B07353 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. ग्रामीण वृत्त-जयपुर
DIPR/C/10057/2023 फोन नं. 0141-2223527

Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited
Saras Sankul" J.L.N. Marg, Jaipur-302 017, Tele-Fax:0141- 2702135
E-Mail: dpm-rcdf@rajasthan.gov.in, website www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in
No. : RCDF/F.6/DPM/(7166-XXVIII)/2023/14933-66 Dated : 07/07/2023
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Single Stage two-envelopes unconditional Technical and Financial e-tenders/ Bids are invited by Rajasthan Co-operative Dairy Federation Limited,from experienced manufacturers having manufacturing facilities situated in Rajasthan and its adjoining states only, for service contract of conversion of surplus milk into Ag-mark Ghee and ISI mark SMP & WMP to be supplied by our milk unions. Brief particulars of the procurement are given below :-

Approximate value of Services	Last time and date for receiving Bids	Period of the Contract	Validity period of Bids	Price of Bidding Document	Bid Sucurity
Rupees 15.00 Crore	up to 3.00 PM of 10/08/2023	12 Months	120 days	Rs. 2360/-	Rs. 30,00,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lacs only)

The Complete Bidding Document can be obtained from our website **www.sarasmilkfed.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** and **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bid will be submitted on **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.**
(UBN: CDF2324SLRC00506)
Raj.Samwad/C/23/5494 General Manager (DPM & Proj.)

INBRIEF

HCL Technologies Q1 profit increases 7.6% to ₹3,534 crore

HCL Technologies reported a 7.6% rise in net profit to ₹3,534 crore for the quarter ended June 30. However, sequentially, its net profit slid 11.3%. Consolidated revenue rose 12% to ₹26,296 crore. Addressing the media, C. Vijayakumar, CEO & MD, said sporadic ramp downs were happening in technology and telecom globally, yet HCL Tech managed to maintain a robust pipeline. The firm retained revenue guidance (constant currency) of 6-8% and operating margin at 18-19% for FY24.

NBFC Dvara KGFS raises $10 million in debt via ECBs

Non-banking finance company Dvara KGFS has raised $10 million in debt from Triple Jump Financial Inclusion Resilience Fund and a fund managed by Switzerland-based BlueOrchard Finance Ltd. The funds would be used for augmenting capital adequacy and accelerating growth, Dvara KGFS said. The Netherlands-based Triple Jump has invested $5 million in the form of External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) with BlueOrchard Finance providing the balance sum.

'Vehicle loan dues rose 22% in May despite jump in rates'

Vehicle loans outstanding increased by 22% y-o-y to ₹5.09 lakh crore in May, notwithstanding the RBI's rate-raising spree in 2022-23. As per the latest RBI data, the total vehicle-loan outstanding rose from ₹3.65 lakh crore in May 2021 to ₹4.16 lakh crore in May 2022, and to ₹5.09 lakh crore as of May 19. The annual rise in loan outstanding was only 14% in May 2022. The RBI started raising interest rates in May 2022 to check inflation. PTI

IIP rises 5.2%, led by infrastructure

Mining and manufacturing output increased at a swifter rate of 6.4% and 5.7%, respectively, in May, with the latter buoyed by consumer durables snapping a 5-month decline; NSO data shows 12 of 23 manufacturing sub-sectors reported contractions

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Industrial output expanded at the fastest pace in three months in May buoyed by infrastructure to grow by 5.2%, compared with April's 4.46%. Electricity generation snapped a two-month contraction to rise 0.9%.

Mining and manufacturing as a whole edged up at a swifter rate of 6.4% and 5.7%, respectively, data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) show. Production of consumer durables rebounded to growth for the first time in six months, expanding 1.1% compared with a 2.5% contraction in April.

Infrastructure and construction goods' output continued to drive up the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), rising 14% after an almost 13% rise in April. Capital goods' production growth also accelerated to 8.2%, from April's 6.2%.

Of the 23 manufacturing sectors tracked by the NSO, 12 sectors recorded a contraction in output in May, with apparel makers (-21%) and furniture producers (-20.5%) reporting the sharpest declines, followed by wood products (-12.7%), paper products (-8.6%) and computers and electronics (-5.7%).

This was counterweighed by a sharp 20.9% uptick in pharma output and a 13.4% surge in motor vehicles' production. Other transport equipment grew 10.9%, while non-metallic mineral products and machinery and equipment makers also upped output by more than 10%.

"It is a mixed bag, with infra-oriented sectors doing better, but we still need to see consumer spending increasing," remarked Bank of Baroda chief economist Madan Sabnavis. While the auto sector had done well thanks to post-harvest demand from rural India and the marriage season, Mr. Sabnavis said it needed to be seen if this was sustained.

ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar said June IIP growth may have slowed to about 3%-4% as per high-frequency indicators.

Undergirding industrial output

May's IIP increase was spurred by a 14% expansion in infrastructure and construction goods' output, NSO data show

- Capital goods' production growth accelerated to 8.2%, from April's 6.2%
- Apparel makers and furniture producers reported the steepest declines in output of -21% and -20.5%, respectively
- Pharma output and motor vehicles' production on the other hand saw sharp upticks of 20.9% and 13.4%, respectively

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	65,394	-0.34
US Dollar	82.18	0.28
Gold	59,700	0.33
Brent oil	79.82	0.69

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2387.90	-35.00
Adani Ports	724.20	-5.70
Apollo Hosp	5252.05	-4.95
Asian Paints	3406.75	14.20
Axis Bank	950.00	-3.20
Bajaj Auto	4878.45	-39.20
Bajaj Finserv	1593.20	0.80
Bajaj Finance	7431.95	-12.05
Bharti Airtel	889.95	-1.95
BPCL	386.20	-4.70
Britannia Ind	5073.90	-10.00
Cipla	1022.20	-5.60
Coal India	234.40	0.40
Divis Lab	3633.50	-7.95
Dr Reddys Lab	5189.00	23.15
Eicher Motors	3291.65	38.60
Grasim Ind	1777.85	10.15
HCL Tech	1110.55	-4.35
HDFC	2724.30	-23.05
HDFC Bank	1632.95	-15.45
HDFC Life	671.70	-0.85
Hero MotoCorp	3078.85	-23.75
Hindalco	424.85	0.20
Hind Unilever	2673.65	-10.85
ICICI Bank	944.40	-0.55
IndusInd Bank	1371.45	-9.50
Infosys	1333.30	-15.30
ITC	472.30	-0.85
JSW Steel	805.70	8.30
Kotak Bank	1878.10	11.50
L&T	2454.95	-19.60
M&M	1570.85	1.40
Maruti Suzuki	9835.80	-64.35
NestleIndia	23060.05	207.75
NTPC	190.80	-1.60
ONGC	167.65	3.05
PowerGrid Corp	252.05	-1.45
Reliance Ind	2767.75	3.05
SBI Life	1300.60	5.60
State Bank	589.25	0.70
Sun Pharma	1078.75	6.50
TataConsumerProduct	843.25	2.95
Tata Motors	621.45	-7.05
Tata Steel	114.70	-0.45
TCS	3259.90	-12.50
Tech Mahindra	1159.40	-2.05
Titan	3096.50	8.90
UltraTech Cement	8220.50	-105.40
UPL	643.85	-0.40
Wipro	391.85	-0.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 12

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.05	82.37
Euro	90.44	90.79
British Pound	106.00	106.42
Japanese Yen (100)	58.74	58.97
Chinese Yuan	11.41	11.46
Swiss Franc	93.43	93.80
Singapore Dollar	61.31	61.56
Canadian Dollar	62.09	62.34
Malaysian Ringitt	17.63	17.72
Australian Dollar	54.92	55.14

Source:Indian Bank

TCS Q1 net grows 16.8% to ₹11,074 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. (TCS) reported that its first quarter consolidated net profit grew 16.8% year-on-year to ₹11,074 crore on the back of marquee deals.

But due to demand softness witnessed in the market, the company reported a comparatively lower net profit on a quarter-on-quarter basis, from ₹11,392 crore in the fourth quarter.

The company's revenue for the quarter ended June 30, 2023 grew 12.6% year-on-year to ₹59,381 crore. On a quarter-to-quarter basis, however, the growth was nearly flat.

K Krithivasan

Stating that demand was softening due to global macroeconomic uncertainties, the company believes that achieving double-digit growth this year would be a tall order.

"We remain confident in the long-term demand for our services, driven by emergence of newer technologies," said K Krithivasan, CEO & MD, TCS.

Goyal meets Badenoch to spur India-U.K. trade talks

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

The eleventh round of trade negotiations between India and the U.K. kicked off in London, with Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal meeting his U.K. counterpart, Business and Trade Secretary Kemi Badenoch, and representatives of British industry on July 10 and 11. The visit is being seen by some in the U.K. government as a sign of political determination to work out a deal.

"Discussed how both sides can add further momentum to the India-UK Free Trade Agreement negotiations for a mutually beneficial deal," Mr. Goyal said on Twitter. The current round of talks between the two sides is set to conclude on July 14.

Piyush Goyal (right) with Kemi Badenoch .

Ms. Badenoch, on Wednesday, described the potential agreement as "a deal to benefit businesses across both nations and strengthen our deep and historic ties."

Both sides had come to the talks with "an ambitious set of asks", a spokesperson in Ms. Badenoch's department told *The Hindu*. "We are continuing to negotiate but we are clear that we will only sign when we have a deal that is fair, balanced, and ultimately in the best interests of the British people and the economy," they said.

U.K. trade minister Nigel Huddleston had told Press Trust of India that half the chapters under discussion had been concluded.

U.S. CPI inflation slowed to 3% in June

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. consumer prices rose modestly in June and registered their smallest annual increase in more than two years as inflation subsided further, but probably not fast enough to discourage the Federal Reserve from resuming raising interest rates this month.

The report from the Labor Department on Wednesday also showed underlying consumer prices posting their smallest monthly gain since August 2021. The considerable slowdown in underlying inflation ignited a rally on the stock market, with investors convinced that the U.S. central bank's fastest monetary policy tightening cycle since the 1980s was drawing to a close.

"Inflation isn't dead, but the extraordinary pandemic push on prices from shortages and shift to stay-at-home purchases is clearly over, and the Fed for the first time has the upper hand in its inflation fight," said Christopher Rupkey, chief economist at FWDBONDS in New York.

In the 12 months through June, the CPI advanced 3.0%.

The Fed has raised its policy rate by 500 basis points since March.

SpiceJet's Ajay Singh to infuse ₹500 crore

THE HINDU BUREAU
NEW DELHI

SpiceJet promoter Ajay Singh will infuse ₹500 crore into the airline by way of subscribing to fresh equity or convertible instruments, the airline said in a statement.

The decision was taken during a board meeting held on Wednesday to deliberate over options for raising fresh capital.

Additional facility

The airline added the fund infusion would enable SpiceJet to seek additional credit facilities worth ₹206 crore under the government's Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme.

A fund crunch had forced the airline to ground almost half of its 64-aircraft fleet with some aircraft lessors moving the DGCA demanding deregistration of aircraft over pending lease rentals.

Ajay Singh

The DGCA had also placed the airline under enhanced surveillance to ascertain the financial challenges didn't impact flight safety. To add to its woes, last week the Supreme Court in a matter ordered the airline to pay the entire arbitral amount of ₹380 crore to former promoter Kalanithi Maran.

LIC raises holding in TCP, Deepak Nitrite

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has increased its holding in Tata Consumer Products (TCP) and Deepak Nitrite by about 2 percentage points each.

In TCP, its holding rose from 5.06% to 7.06% since May 2, 2022. LIC purchased more than 1.86 crore shares of the company at an average price of ₹770.69 each. LIC's holding in Deepak Nitrite rose from 5.02% to 7.08% since September 28, 2022. It purchased more than 28.11 lakh shares at an average price of ₹2,152.73 each.

Gambia mandates pre-shipment testing for Indian pharma

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Western African nation The Gambia, where the deaths of at least 66 children last year was linked to an Indian cough syrup, has introduced pre-shipment inspection and testing for Indian pharmaceuticals.

In place since July 1, the requirement follows the African country's Medicines Control Agency (MCA) norm mandating pre-shipment document verification, physical inspection, quality control testing and issuance of Clean Report of Inspection and Analysis (CRIA) for pharmaceuticals.

The Gambia expects the measure to address issues related to substandard and counterfeit medicines entering the country.

"This regulation requires all imported pharmaceutical products to be inspected and sampled for testing to ensure conformity to quality standards prior to shipment from India," Indian pharma exporters' body Pharmexcil said.

The MCA has appointed independent verification, inspection and testing company Quntrol Laboratories to carry out the process and issue CRIA for all pharma shipments.

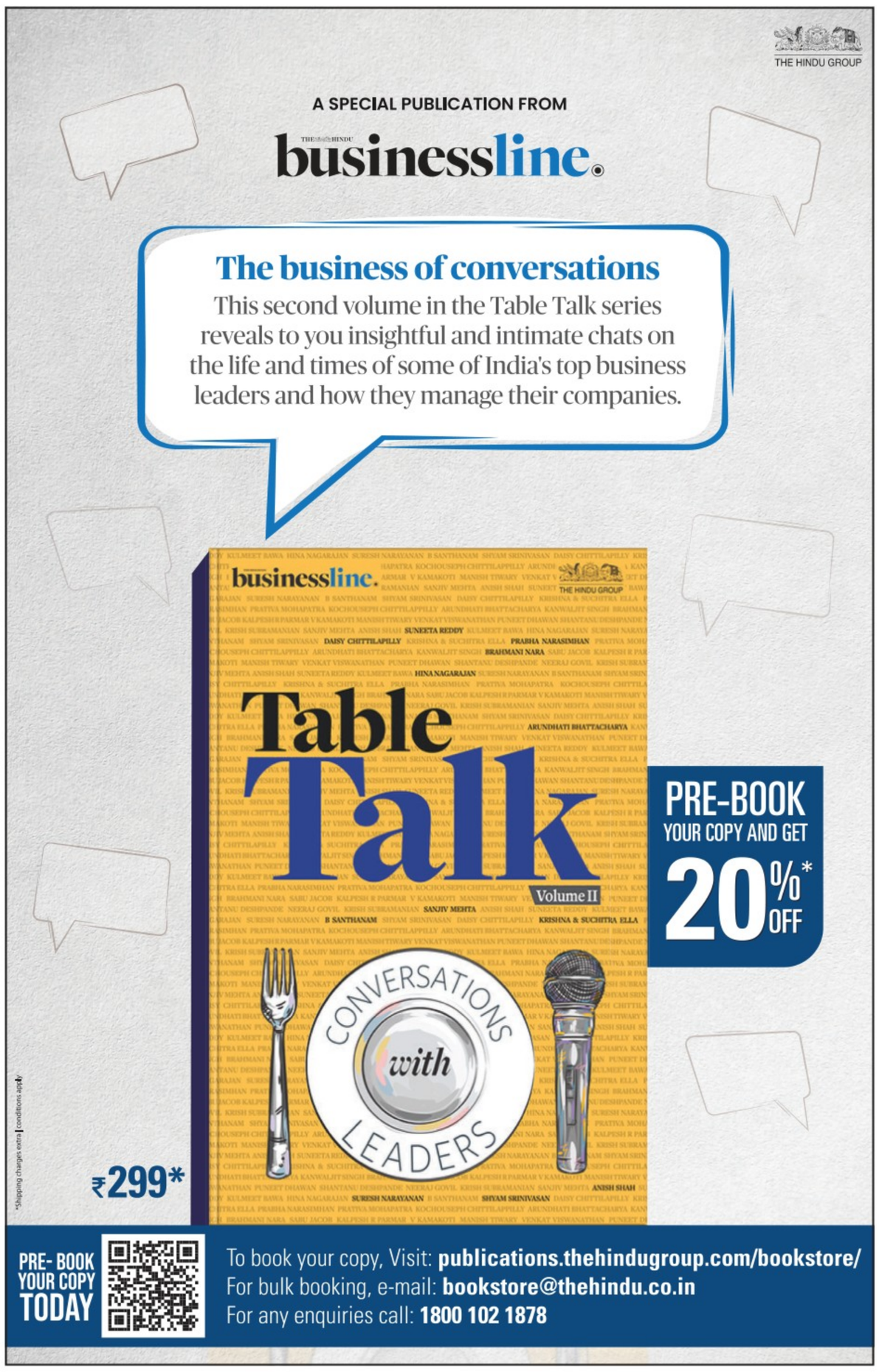
Wipro to invest $1 bn to boost AI capabilities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro on Wednesday said it would invest $1 billion over the next three years to advance its artificial intelligence (AI) capabilities.

"Artificial Intelligence is a fast-moving field. With the emergence of generative AI, we expect a fundamental shift up ahead for all industries," said Thierry Delaporte, CEO and MD of Wipro Limited.

The company would train all 2,50,000 of its employees on AI fundamentals and the responsible use of AI over the course of the next 12 months.



SPECIAL TALENT

'Virat was the only one who was there when we came here in 2011'

Head coach Rahul Dravid reminisced about the 2011 Test in the West Indies. "When I came here in 2011, that was a very special occasion for the ground here. Virat was the only one who was there when we came here in 2011. It was Virat's first Test series, but you could see he was a special talent," said Dravid.

CONFIDENCE

I would consider myself as a favourite: Djokovic

Following his win over Andrey Rublev in the Wimbledon quarterfinal, Novak Djokovic said he considers himself a favourite to win the tournament. After the win, when asked about the players who could stop his run, Djokovic said, "It ain't happening!". "I do not want to sound arrogant, but of course, I would consider myself the favourite."

ROYAL VISIT

Queen Camilla makes an appearance at Wimbledon

A week after Princess Kate graced Centre Court at Wimbledon by taking a seat in the Royal Box, Queen Camilla made an appearance at the Grand Slam tennis tournament on Wednesday. Prince Albert II of Monaco was also scheduled to be in attendance. Prince Albert is the son of the late Grace Kelly and Prince Rainier III.

ON A ROLL

Philipsen bags fourth stage win of the 2023 Tour

Belgian Jasper Philipsen sprinted to his fourth stage win in this year's Tour de France with a powerful late burst on Stage 11. Philipsen edged Dylan Groenewegen to the line on Wednesday with Phil Bauhaus third. There was no change in the overall standings between race favourites Jonas Vingegaard and Tadej Pogacar.

Crafty Ashwin spins a web around the Windies batters

The off-spinner goes past 700 international wickets across formats with his 33rd five-wicket haul in Tests; he also becomes the first Indian bowler to dismiss both father and son (Chanderpauls); the hosts bundled out for 150

Getting into the act: Ashwin proved unplayable for Brathwaite and his men. AP

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Associated Press
ROSEAU (DOMINICA)

R. Ashwin took his 33rd five-wicket haul in Tests as the West Indies was bowled out for 150 on the first day of the opening Test against India on Wednesday.

Ashwin took his international wicket tally (across formats) to 702 with his latest show (five for 60).

Omitted for the World Test Championship final against Australia a month earlier, the 36-year-old spinner added the wickets of Alzarri Joseph, debutant Alick Athanaze in the afternoon session after removing openers Tagenarine Chanderpaul and Kraigg Brathwaite in the first. He scalped Jomel Warrican in the post-tea session to finish with a five-for.

Ashwin, who bowled Tagenarine with a beauty, became only the fifth bowler and the first Indian to dismiss both father and son during his career. Interestingly, it is the Chanderpauls who feature thrice in the list of father-son duo dismissed by the same bowler.

Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc and South African off-spinner Simon Harmer are the other bowlers who had dismissed Shivnarine and Tagenarine. The other two bowlers to achieve the feat are England all-rounder Ian Botham and Pakistan legend Wasim Akram, who dismissed the New Zealand father-son duo of Lance and Chris Cairns.

Athanaze, who top-scored for the hosts with 47, impressed with his composure and shot-making before miscuing an attempted pull to offer a simple catch.

Ashwin's spin partner, Ravindra Jadeja, took three wickets.

SCOREBOARD

WEST INDIES — 1ST INNINGS
Kraigg Brathwaite c Rohit b Ashwin 20 *(46b, 3x4)*, Tagenarine Chanderpaul b Ashwin 12 *(44b)*, Raymon Reifer c Kishan b Shardul 2 *(18b)*, Jermaine Blackwood c Siraj b Jadeja 14 *(34b, 1x4)*, Alick Athanaze c Shardul b Ashwin 47 *(99b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Joshua Da Silva c Kishan b Jadeja 2 *(13b)*, Jason Holder c Shardul b Siraj 18 *(61b, 1x4)*, Alzarri Joseph c Unadkat b Ashwin 4 *(11b, 1x4)*, Rahkeem Cornwall (not out) 19 *(34b, 3x4)*, Kemar Roach lbw b Jadeja 1 *(16b)*, Jomel Warrican c Gill b Ashwin 1 *(13b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-5, w-1, nb-2): 10; Total (in 64.3 overs): 150.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-31 (Tagenarine, 12.5 overs), 2-38 (Brathwaite, 16.3), 3-47 (Reifer, 19.3), 4-68 (Blackwood, 27.6), 5-76 (Da Silva, 31.5), 6-117 (Holder, 49.4), 7-124 (Joseph, 52.4), 8-129 (Athanaze, 54.6), 9-147 (Roach, 61.3).

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 12-2-25-1, Unadkat 7-2-17-0, Ashwin 24.3-6-60-5, Shardul 7-3-15-1, Jadeja 14-7-26-3.

Toss: West Indies.

Vihari stands tall even as South crumbles on rain-hit day

Captain's knock: Vihari's innings was the lone bright spot for South. K. MURALI KUMAR

DULEEP TROPHY FINAL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

South Zone slipped to 182 for seven on a rain-affected first day of its Duleep Trophy final against West Zone at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Wednesday.

Only 65 overs of play was possible, as a large part of the evening session was wiped out due to rain and bad light.

South skipper Hanuma Vihari (63, 130b, 9x4) held firm as wickets fell around him. Vihari, put on a 79-run third-wicket stand with Tilak Varma (40, 87b, 5x4, 1x6). Vihari was at ease when Shams Mulani came into the attack, clearing his right leg to punch the left-arm spinner inside out through cover. Much against the run of play, Vihari dragged a cut to Mulani onto timber.

West new ball bowler Chintan Gaja was the biggest threat. Gaja landed the ball on a dime just outside off and got appreciable movement. He had Tilak tied up in knots, as the batter was left guessing if it was coming in or going out.

Mayank Agarwal, the Player-of-the-Match in the previous outing, was dismissed for a streaky 47-ball 28. Mayank walked down the track to the pacers - flashing and missing often. His luck ran out when a Atit Sheth out-swinger caught the edge and flew to Sarfaraz Khan in the slip cordon.

Suryakumar Yadav came alive with a good catch to dismiss Sachin Baby. An uppish on-drive went to Suryakumar at mid-wicket, who dove forward and plucked it inches from the ground.

West wicketkeeper Harvik Desai had a stellar day, taking three catches. Desai showed great athleticism when he flew to his left to grab a Ricky Bhui leg-glance. Desai was also at ease when he stood up to the stumps to the fast bowlers.

The scores:
South Zone —1st innings: R. Samarth c Desai b Gaja 7, Mayank Agarwal c Sarfaraz b Sheth 28, Tilak Varma c Desai b Nagwaswalla 40, Hanuma Vihari b Mulani 63, Ricky Bhui c Desai b Gaja 9, Sachin Baby c Suryakumar b Mulani 7, Washington Sundar (batting) 9, Sai Kishore c Sarfaraz b Nagwaswalla 5, V. Vyshak (batting) 5; Extras (b-2, lb-3, w-1, nb-3): 9; Total (for seven wkts, in 65 overs): 182.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-42, 3-121, 4-138, 5-158, 6-165, 7-176.

West Zone bowling: Nagwaswalla 15-3-45-2, Gaja 16-7-27-2, Jadeja 13-3-29-0, Sheth 15-3-47-1, Sarfaraz 1-0-10-0, Mulani 5-1-19-2.

Toss: West Zone.

Late surge helps Abhishek pip Imae to the bronze

Sports Bureau

Abhishek Pal came up with some fine end-game heroics to outwit Japan's Yuto Imae and take the 10,000m bronze at the 25th Asian Athletics Championships in Bangkok on Wednesday. It was India's first medal at this Asians and Abhishek's first major international medal.

"I saw Imae slowing down in last two laps. I gradually tracked him down and pushed hard in the last 400m," said Abhishek.

Japan's Marina Saito shocked China's Olympic champion Liu Shiying for the women's javelin gold. Annu Rani finished fourth.

Tejaswin Shankar was in the lead in decathlon after the opening day's events.

The results (medallists and Indian performances):
Men: 10,000m: 1. Ren Tazawa (Jpn) 29:18.44s, 2. Shadrack Kumutai Koech (Kaz) 29:31.63, 3. Abhishek Pal (Ind) 29:33.26. 5. Gulveer Singh (Ind) 29:53.69;

Abhishek Pal.

4x100m relay: 1. Thailand (38.55s), 2. China (38.87), 3. Korea (38.99).

Women: **1500m:** 1. Tanaka Nozomi (Jpn) 4:06.75s MR, OR 4:12.69, 2. Goto Yume (Jpn) 4:13.25, 3. Aberathna Gayanthika (Sri) 4:14.39. 7. Lili Das (Ind) 4:27.61; **4x100m relay**: 1. China (43.35s), 2. Japan (43.95), 3. Thailand (44.56); **Triple jump**: 1. Mariko Morimoto (Jpn) 14.06m, 2. Rui Zeng (Chn) 14.01, 3. Thi Huong Nguyen (Vie) 13.68;

Javelin: 1. Marina Saito (Jpn) 61.67m, 2. Liu Shiying (Chn) 61.51, 3. Nadeesha Hatarbage (Sri) 60.93, 4. Annu Rani (Ind) 59.10.

Jabeur dethrones Rybakina, Sabalenka slams door on Keys

WIMBLEDON

Associated Press
LONDON

Aryna Sabalenka reached the semifinals of Wimbledon for the second straight time, with a one-year break in between as she was banned from the tournament in 2022.

The Belarusian, seeded second at the All England Club, had to sit out last year's competition along with other players from her country and Russia because of the war in Ukraine. She advanced by beating Madison Keys 6-2, 6-4 on the No. 1 Court on Wednesday.

Amazing

"It really feels amazing to be back in the semifinals. I can't wait to play in my second semifinal at Wimbledon," said Sabalenka, who lost to runner-up Karolina Pliskova in 2021.

The victory improved Sabalenka's record to 17-1 at Majors this year. She won the Australian Open, reached the semifinals at the French Open and has five wins on the grass at SW19 so far.

Sabalenka also improved her record to 6-0 in Slam quarterfinals and did so despite much of the cheering for Keys.

Sabalenka will next face Ons Jabeur. The sixth-seeded Tunisian stunned defending champion Elena Rybakina 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-1 on Centre Court in a rematch of last year's final.

"I wish we can exchange this match from the final last year," joked Jabeur, who lost to Rybakina in three sets in 2022.

Jabeur won eight of the last nine games to reach the semifinals of a Major for the third time. She is 2-0 in the previous two, also reaching the final at last year's U.S. Open.

In a marathon men's singles quarterfinal, third-seeded Daniil Medvedev of Russia outlasted American Christopher Eubanks 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-1.

Carlos Alcaraz saw off Holger Rune 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-4 to stay on course for a title showdown against Novak Djokovic. The top seed, who won the key moments during the quarterfinal on Centre Court, will play Medvedev in the semifinals.

Bopanna-Ebden duo enters semifinal

In doubles, sixth seeds Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden defeated the Dutch pair of Tallon Griekspoor and Bart Stevens 6-7(3), 7-5, 6-2 in the quarterfinals.

After losing the first set tie-breaker, the Indo-Australian duo turned the tables on their opponents in a contest that lasted six minutes short of two hours.

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

THE RESULTS

Quarterfinals: Women:
6-Jabeur (Tun) bt 3-Rybakina (Kaz) 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-1; 2-Sabalenka bt 25-Keys (USA) 6-2, 6-4.
Men: 3-Medvedev bt Eubanks (USA) 6-4, 1-6, 4-6, 7-6(4), 6-1; 1-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 6-Rune (Den) 7-6(3), 6-4, 6-4.

INBRIEF

Hyderabad FC ropes in Costa Rica international Moya

Hyderabad FC (HFC) has roped in Costa Rica international Jonathan Moya, its first new overseas signing ahead of the 2023-24 ISL campaign. "I am very excited to join the team and I want to thank the club for putting their faith in me. To the fans, I promise to give my 100% everytime and together we will achieve great things," said the tall Moya.

Gyaneshwari strikes gold at Commonwealth weightlifting

Gyaneshwari Yadav clinched the women's 49kg gold at the Commonwealth weightlifting championships in New Delhi on Wednesday. The 20-year-old from Chhattisgarh recorded personal bests in the snatch as well as the clean and jerk section. Gyaneshwari lifted 176kg (78kg+98kg) to stand atop the podium.

Oldest pro soccer player Miura not ready to retire

Kazuyoshi Miura will continue playing aged 56 after the former Japan international extended his loan deal with Portuguese second-division outfit Oliveirense. Oliveirense said on social media that the forward, who has made three appearances for the club after joining from Japan's Yokohama FC in February, will stay with it next season.

LIVE TELECAST

Emerging Teams Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 10 a.m.

The Championships: Star Sports 2, SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m.

West Indies vs India: 1st Test, day 2, DD Sports, FanCode & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

MLC T20: Sports 18-1 & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Friday)

India keen to sort out batting flaws in pursuit of clean sweep

The seniors in the team have another opportunity to make amends against the beleaguered hosts in the final T20I to help the bowlers, who have been outstanding so far, with extra cushion

Seeking a turnaround: Smriti Mandhana would look to get back into form before the ODI series. PTI

INDIA IN BANGLADESH

Press Trust of India
MIRPUR

The Women in Blue will eye a 3-0 sweep when they take on Bangladesh in the final T20I here on Thursday.

The Harmanpreet Kaur-led outfit won the first two matches and will be looking to do an encore when it takes to the field in the third game.

It is easier said than done given India's mediocre outing with the bat in the second encounter, which it scraped through by just eight runs despite being stopped at 95 in 20 overs.

The hosts were bowled out for 87 thanks to some excellent bowling by the Indians, giving them an unassailable lead in the three-match series.

Shafali Verma will, once again, be under the lens of the selectors after her twin failures in the series.

While her 14-ball 19 eventually turned out to be the team's highest score in the unforgettable collapse, the batter is well aware of her capabilities and expectations from her, and has another chance to get back among big runs.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana too will be keen to get going after getting dismissed for a run-a-ball 13 on Tuesday.

Jemimah Rodrigues also could not get going and struggled a lot in the middle while consuming as many as 21 balls for her eight runs.

The bowlers will enter the final T20I high on morale.

Defending 96, the likes of Deepti Sharma, Minnu Mani and Shafali delivered with the ball to bundle out the opponents with Bangladesh skipper Nigar Sultana (38 off 55 balls) playing a lone hand.

The teams (from):

India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana, Deepti Sharma, Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Devika Vaidya, Uma Chhetri (wk), Amanjot Kaur, S. Meghna, Pooja Vastrakar, Meghna Singh, Anjali Sarwani , Monika Patel, Rashi Kanojia, Anusha Bareddi, and Minnu Mani.

Bangladesh: Nigar Sultana (Capt. & wk), Shamima Sultana, Murshida Khatun, Sobhana Mostary, Shorna Akter, Ritu Moni, Nahida Akter, Fahima Khatun, Rabeya Khan, Shanjida Akter, Salma Khatun, Marufa Akter, Dilara Akter, Disha Biswas, Sultana Khatun, and Shathi Rani.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m. IST.

Wrestling trials on July 22 and 23 in New Delhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The IOA ad-hoc committee on Wednesday decided to hold much-awaited wrestling trials for the Asian Games on July 22 and 23 but the panel is still undecided on criteria and if any of the six protesting wrestlers should be given exemption.

After IOA's request seeking extension beyond July 22 was shot down by the OCA, the ad-hoc panel met in New Delhi and decided that men's Greco Roman and women's trials will be held on July 22 and selection to pick free style team will be done the next day.

Trials in 18 Olympic weight categories – six each in three formats (free style and Greco Roman for men and free style for women) – have to be conducted by the ad-hoc committee. India's U-15 and U-20 contingents are in Amman to compete in Asian Championship.

MCC recommends extra funding for Tests, women's game

Press Trust of India
LONDON

The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the custodian of the laws of the game, has pushed for extra funding to protect Test cricket and the women's game, and suggested a significant reduction in ODIs after the 2027 World Cup.

In a recent meeting at the Lord's, the MCC's 13-member World Cricket Committee (WCC) proposed "removing bilateral ODIs, other than in the one year preceding each World Cup". The panel made the suggestion keeping in mind the crowded calendar, which features T20 domestic franchise leagues around the world.

"The committee questioned the role men's One Day International (ODI) cricket now plays outside of ICC World Cups, and recommended it be significantly reduced following the completion of the 2027 ICC Men's World Cup," the MCC said in a statement.

The committee, headed by former England captain Mike Gatting and which has Sourav Ganguly and Jhulan Goswami, has asked the ICC to create a balanced and equitable Future Tours Programme for men's cricket after 2027.

'MotoGP Bharat' a big opportunity: Ezpeleta

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Preparation is on in full swing ahead of the first-ever top-class motorcycle race, as India is set to host its inaugural MotoGP race, 'MotoGP Bharat'. The country is one of the biggest two-wheeler markets and the organisers, Dorna Sports, have pegged it as a critical market for the championship.

"For us breaking into India, which is a whole continent in itself, is very important. It's the biggest two-wheeler market in the world and very important for us, our stakeholders and the manufacturers," said Carlos Ezpeleta, chief sporting officer of Dorna Sports, in an interaction with *The Hindu*.

Ezpeleta. DORNA SPORTS

"It's a huge opportunity and has a huge potential for both the sport and the motorcycle industry, and we sort of represent both. It involves a long-term investment to break into the Indian market, but we have a sport that I think is well suited for India," he added.

While getting the race is one thing, long-term success will depend on developing local talent to sustain interest, and it is something Ezpleta said the team at Dorna will look into seriously. "There's no other supporting property that invests as much as Dorna does in developing young riders to grow into the future stars of MotoGP. India will definitely be our next biggest target because that would be the best way to grow the fan base and the audience in the country. There are some promising talents in pipeline."

"We already have the Mini GP project that feeds into the Asia Talent Cup and then into the Junior GP. So there's quite a marked path, and the stepping stones are clear, but we need to deepen into the Indian market for young riders," he added.

Fairstreet Sports are the promoters of the race, and the presence of Buddh International Circuit, an FIM-homologated track, ensured the race was put together in about 18 months.

The BIC hosted three Formula One Indian Grand Prix (2011-13) and was built for car and bike racing. With the MotoGP bikes evolving since the track's homologation, some changes are being made at the circuit to keep up with new safety standards.

"Minor works like paintings, curbs and run-offs are being worked on. There is also some surface work on the back straight being done apart from some minor modifications to turn three, but we are confident the work will be done in time," said Ezpeleta.

India-Pakistan Asia Cup games to be played in Dambulla, confirms Dhumal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

PCB has the hosting rights for the tournament to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 31-September 17

The Asia Cup games between India and Pakistan will be held in Sri Lanka as agreed upon by the previous dispensation of host PCB, IPL chairman Arun Dhumal confirmed on Wednesday.

Dhumal, who is in Durban for the ICC Chief Executives Meet (CEC), said that the BCCI secretary Jay Shah and new PCB management committee chairman Zaka Ashraf met ahead of ICC Board meeting on Thursday to finalise the Asia Cup schedule.

Ashraf, who took charge of the PCB earlier this month, had expressed his displeasure over the hybrid model accepted by the previous regime under Najam Sethi.

PCB has the hosting rights for the tournament to be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 31-September 17.

"Our secretary met the PCB head Zaka Ashraf and the Asia Cup schedule was finalised and it is on course as it was discussed earlier.

"There will be four games of league stage in Pakistan, followed by nine games in Sri Lanka including India versus Pakistan game and a third game if both teams reach the final," Dhumal said.

Dhumal rubbished reports emerging from Pakistan media that India will travel to the neighbouring country as its sports minister Ehsan Mazari had been claiming.

"There was no such discussion held.

"Neither India is travelling to Pakistan nor our secretary will be travelling contrary to reports that have surfaced.

"Only the schedule was finalised," Dhumal added.

India, in all likelihood, will play Pakistan in Dambulla just like 2010 edition.

Pakistan's only home match will be against Nepal.

The other three contests are Afghanistan versus Bangladesh, Bangladesh versus Sri Lanka and Sri Lanka against Afghanistan.

Dipa picked for Asian Games

Y.B. Sarangi
BHUBANESWAR

Five men and four women, including Dipa Karmakar, were selected for the Indian gymnastics team after the completion of the Asian Games selection trials here on Wednesday.

The selected gymnasts:

Men: Yogeshwar Singh (all-around, first, 76.30; floor, second, 13.00), Rakesh Patra (all-around, second, 76.20; rings, first, 13.50; parallel bars, third, 13.20), Tapan Mohanty (all-around, third, 74.60; rings, second 12.75), Gaurav Kumar (floor, first, 13.05; parallel bars, first, 13.60), Satyajit Mondal (vault, first, 13.88). **Reserves:** Anas Ali Shaikh (vault, second, 13.58), Saif Tamboli (parallel bars, second, 13.25; pommel horse, first, 12.85).

Women: Dipa Karmakar (all-around, first, 47.05; floor, first, 12.05; vault, second, 12.33), Pranati Das (all-around, second, 45.80; beam, second, 11.35; floor, second, 11.85), Pranati Nayak (all-around, third, 44.43; vault, first, 12.73), Protistha (vault, third, 12.20). **Reserve:** Bidisha Gayen (all-around, fourth, 41.05).

Note: The scores of Yogeshwar, Rakesh and Pranati Nayak are from the Asian championships.

Sharath to lead the charge for Chennai Lions' defence as it meets Puneri Paltan in the opener

UTT-4

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

He has been the poster boy of Indian table tennis for almost two decades. It will be fitting that a day after turning 41, A. Sharath Kamal will lead the charge for Chennai Lions' defence against Puneri Paltan TT in the Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) opener on Thursday, the franchise-based table tennis league that returns after a three-year hiatus.

Super six: Sharath (Chennai Lions), Manika (Bengaluru Smashers), Sathiyan (Dabang Delhi), Lily Zhang (U Mumba) and Robles (Goa Challengers) ahead of the fourth edition. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Just like the third edition was held in New Delhi as the solitary host city, the fourth season – after a pandemic-induced break – will be played at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports City here over the next 18 days. More than the title defence, Sharath – like most of the UTT regulars across the globe – is excited with the return of the league that will feature six teams. "A lot of young Indian table tennis players get to be a part of it, which is really great for Indian table tennis," Sharath said on Wednesday.

UTT has a unique format wherein each tie witnesses five matches of three games each. The combined tally of 15 games is taken into account while calculating the points table, with the top four progressing to the semifinals.

While Sharath will bank on Germany's Benedikt Duda and India's Olympian Sutirtha Mukherjee to help the Chennai outfit to get off the blocks, Paltan will look to Hana Matelova of Czech Republic and Egypt's Omar Assar to do the trick for the home team.

Matelova is chuffed to continue her impressive UTT record in her third appearance, while Assar – who has impressed on the international circuit over the last year – will hope to inspire promising southpaw Manush Shah to come good at the big stage.

Thursday's fixture: Chennai Lions vs Puneri Paltan, 7.30 p.m.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Champions: The Veterans FC team that won the BDFA C-division league. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Stephen's strike hands Veterans the title

K. Stephen's goal on the stroke of half-time helped Veterans FC beat Vijayanagar FC 1-0 in the final to win the BDFA C-division league here on Wednesday.

The result:
Veterans FC 1 (Stephen 30+2) bt Vijayanagar FC 0.

Special awards: Player of the tournament: Stephen (Veterans FC); **Best goalkeeper:** B. Chandru (Veterans); **Defender:** Abil Kumar Bauri (Vijayanagar); **Midfielder:** Fazeen Majew (Juno); Forward: Abdul Rajack (Pillanna Garden).

Somaiah does the star turn for Canara Bank

K.P. Somaiah scored a brace as Canara Bank defeated Customs & GST 5-3 in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship here on Wednesday.

The result:

Canara Bank 5 (Nikkin Thimmaiah 18, M.K. Chethan 35, K.P. Somaiah 45, 58, Yathish Kumar 57) bt Customs & GST 3 (P.L. Thimmanna 9, Advaith Nachappa 27, 32).

Misam Rizvi pulls ahead

Misam Rizvi is in the lead at the end of first block of six games of the second round in the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling league here on Wednesday.

Parvez Ahmed, with total a pinfall of 1121, is in second position while Akaash Ashok Kumar is third on 1101 points.

In the women's category, Judy Alban is in the lead (1035 pins), followed by P. Geetha (991 pins).